



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761114679384>

132

Government
Publications

CA20N
CC
-F56

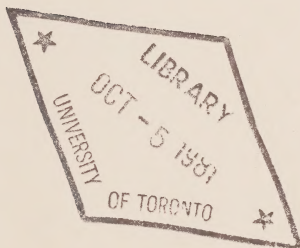
Report #21



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Ontario

Food Price Monitoring Program



January 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #21

JANUARY, 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

January, 1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
FOOD PRICE OVERVIEW	1
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	2
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICIES	13

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: December 6, 1979 to December 4, 1980, January 10, 1980 to January 8, 1981, and December 4, 1980 to January 8, 1981	3
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Ontario Communities in Ontario, January 10, 1980, December 4, 1980, and January 8, 1981	5
3.	Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	7
3A.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, January 10, 1980 to January 8, 1981	8
4.	Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, January 1980 to January 1981	9

INDEX TO CHARTS

<u>Chart</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Apples MacIntosh (3 lb.)	10
2. Beans (1 lb.)	10
3. Broccoli (bunch)	10
4. Carrots (2 lbs.)	11
5. Celery (stalk)	11
6. Lettuce (head)	11
7. Potatoes (P.E.I.)	12
8. Spinach (10 oz.)	12
9. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	12

FOOD PRICE OVERVIEW

Retail food prices are expected to increase by 12 to 14 per cent during 1981.¹ Among the factors expected to exert upward pressure on food prices during 1981 are: higher grain prices, reduced beef, pork and poultry supplies, interest rates, and higher energy, labour and packaging costs.

Food prices in Toronto increased 14.1 per cent between January 1980 and 1981, according to the Food Price Monitoring Program.² Cereals and breads, jams and syrups, pork, poultry, dry groceries and the other grocery category all recorded increases of over 20 per cent during the year. In addition, the categories of dairy and eggs, canned vegetables and fresh fruit and vegetables increased by an amount greater than the overall 14.1 per cent. These category increases reflect some of the major factors behind 1980 food price inflation: adverse weather conditions resulting in commodity price increases on items such as sugar and peanut butter; high import costs on food items because of an unfavourable exchange rate; higher production, distribution, and retailing costs due to the effect of the costs of energy, packaging and labour.

-
1. According to Agriculture Canada.
 2. This figure will not necessarily match CPI figures since it is based on a method which tracks the actual increase of a 72 item basket, including the impact of the addition and removal of "special" prices.

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The price of 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 0.7 per cent between December 4, 1980 and January 8, 1981.

An increase in the price of flour coupled with the lifting of a December special is mainly responsible for the 8.0 per cent increase in the cereals and bread category.

Specials on eight of the ten items in the fresh fruit and vegetable category are responsible for the 4.4 per cent decrease in the category.

In January, 19 specials were recorded on monitored items in Toronto.

Toronto food prices increased 14.1 per cent between January 10, 1980 and January 8, 1981. Price increases and decreases are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	Dec.6/79 to Dec.4/80 % Change	Jan.10/80 to Jan.8/81 % Change	Dec.4/80 to Jan.8/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	16.2	15.5	0.2
Cereals and Bread	7	21.5	29.8	8.0
Beverages	5	4.3	3.0	1.1
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	14.9	13.2	2.1
Canned Vegetables	4	12.2	15.7	1.5
Canned Juices	4	13.3	9.0	-0.6
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	28.0	18.6	-4.4
Dry Groceries	7	31.3	30.5	0.8
Oils and Fats	4	1.2	3.6	2.5
Jams and Syrups	3	23.5	23.2	0.0
Other Groceries	6	23.3	24.2	2.9
Meats				
Beef	6	9.1	-3.4	-4.3
Lamb (frozen)	1	4.8	2.0	-4.6
Pork	5	17.4	23.3	2.3
Poultry	3	18.4	23.4	5.3
Total	72	15.5	14.1	0.7

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which comprise the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in each community due to problems of availability but the same stores are monitored within the community to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on January 8, 1981 were lower than Toronto for all communities with the exception of Kingston, which was 0.2 per cent higher. A year ago, prices recorded in Southern Ontario were lower for five of the seven communities monitored. Prices in Peterborough were 0.1 per cent higher and in Kingston the price total was the same as Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The price spread between Toronto and the eleven communities in Northwestern Ontario has narrowed for six communities since December 4, 1980. Since January 10, 1980 the price spread between Toronto and the eleven communities has narrowed for all communities.

Northeastern Ontario

Since December 4, 1980 the price spread has narrowed for nine of the 18 communities monitored in northeastern Ontario. Prices in Kirkland Lake, North Bay and Sudbury were lower than Toronto. Since January 10, 1980 the price spread has narrowed for ten communities in Northeastern Ontario.

A comparison of all communities with Toronto can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Jan.10/80 % Difference from Toronto	Dec.4/80 % Difference from Toronto	Jan. 8/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.2	-2.6	-0.5
Kingston	0.0	2.0	0.2
London	-0.1	-1.1	-1.3
Ottawa	-1.6	-1.1	-0.5
Owen Sound	-0.3	-0.9	-0.8
Peterborough	0.1	-0.5	-0.6
Windsor	-0.2	-0.1	-1.2
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	8.4	5.8	8.0
Dryden	6.3	4.5	2.3
Fort Frances	4.2	1.3	3.4
Geraldton	6.6	4.4	3.9
Ignace	5.8	4.2	4.4
Kenora	4.8	3.4	2.5
Marathon	7.7	4.2	5.5
Rainy River	8.9	6.3	4.0
Red Lake	7.5	6.1	4.8
Sioux Lookout	7.3	6.2	6.3
Thunder Bay	2.4	2.5	1.9
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	6.6	2.0	3.1
Chapleau	6.8	3.5	4.7
Cochrane	4.5	0.9	0.6
Elliot Lake	3.7	2.5	2.3
Espanola	2.2	1.0	0.5
Hearst	5.3	6.0	5.5
Iroquois Falls	1.7	2.3	2.0
Kapuskasing	3.7	2.2	2.6
Kirkland Lake	1.6	2.9	-0.8
Manitoulin Island	4.4	5.6	6.1
Moosonee	11.7	10.6	10.5
New Liskeard	1.4	0.4	1.6
North Bay	-0.4	-0.2	-0.6
Sault Ste. Marie	0.5	0.0	1.2
Sturgeon Falls	-0.1	1.2	0.2
Sudbury	-0.8	-1.9	-0.1
Timmins	2.5	2.0	1.7
Wawa	3.9	3.9	3.8

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS FOR ALL CENTRES

In the one month period between December 4, 1980 and January 8, 1981, ten communities registered price decreases. These decreases are due mainly to the effect of January specials.

Fifteen communities recorded price increases of under one per cent. Twelve communities recorded price increases of over one per cent which ranged from 1.1 per cent in Kapuskasing to a high of 2.9 per cent in Hamilton.

Some price increases recorded were common to most of the 37 centres. These items include flour, orange crystals, peanut butter and eggs. Some price decreases were also recorded which include sugar and coffee.

Because weekly specials are taken into account in the monitoring, the lifting or addition of specials has an effect on the monthly changes in totals.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months, for all centres are presented in Table 3. The percentage change, by category for the period January 10, 1980 to January 8, 1981, is available for all centres in Table 3A.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Oct.2/80- Nov.6/80	Nov.6/80- Dec.4/80	Dec.4/80- Jan.8/81
	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	0.5	2.1	0.7
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-1.4	0.8	2.9
Kingston	0.5	3.6	-1.1
London	-0.4	2.2	0.5
Ottawa	-0.6	1.2	1.3
Owen Sound	0.8	1.4	0.9
Peterborough	-0.4	2.3	0.7
Windsor	2.7	0.8	-0.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	1.6	1.0	2.8
Dryden	-0.4	1.6	-1.4
Fort Frances	0.5	0.6	2.8
Geraldton	1.5	2.8	0.2
Ignace	1.5	1.9	0.9
Kenora	2.3	0.1	-0.2
Marathon	-1.1	-0.1	2.0
Rainy River	0.8	2.8	-1.4
Red Lake	0.4	3.1	-0.4
Sioux Lookout	1.7	0.1	0.9
Thunder Bay	1.8	1.2	-0.1
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.0	-0.3	1.8
Chapleau	2.2	-1.7	1.9
Cochrane	1.0	0.3	0.4
Elliot Lake	2.3	0.3	0.9
Espanola	1.8	0.5	0.3
Hearst	1.4	1.3	0.3
Iroquois Falls	0.1	2.8	0.5
Kapuskasing	2.0	0.5	1.1
Kirkland Lake	0.4	2.5	-1.1
Manitoulin Island	2.0	2.4	1.2
Moosonee	2.2	1.2	-0.8
New Liskeard	-1.8	2.3	1.9
North Bay	0.3	1.9	0.3
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.2	1.1	1.6
Sturgeon Falls	0.4	2.1	-0.2
Sudbury	1.4	-0.8	2.6
Timmins	1.1	0.3	0.5
Wawa	0.1	1.4	0.7

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 3A: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, January 10, 1980 to January 8, 1981

Community	Jan./10/80 to Jan./8/81 % Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages & Juices	Canned Fruits & Vegetables	Fresh & Veg.	Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Fruit cerials	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	14.1	15.5*	29.8	3.0	11.5*	18.6*	30.5*	3.6*	23.2*	24.2*	-3.4*	2.0*	23.3*	23.4*	8.4*
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>															
Hamilton	13.7	13.2	24.6	4.4*	11.2*	22.5	31.6*	2.5	24.4*	26.0*	-4.8	5.3	17.9*	31.6*	7.4*
Kingston	14.3	16.0	30.2	3.5	11.0*	16.5*	26.0*	5.5	24.1	25.6*	0.6	13.1	20.6*	19.0*	9.9*
London	12.7	15.2	29.8	3.8*	10.6	13.8*	27.8*	2.2	24.5	26.3*	-9.3	3.4*	21.6*	22.7*	5.2*
Ottawa	15.3	18.2	32.6	4.5*	19.8*	27.1*	28.4*	6.6	24.3*	25.6	-4.4	7.2	17.6*	22.3*	6.2*
Owen Sound	13.4	12.3	29.6*	-1.1*	13.2*	14.5*	29.7*	1.0*	22.5*	24.9*	-0.5*	10.0*	20.2*	20.2*	10.9*
Peterborough	13.3	13.9	29.9*	4.1*	11.9*	15.3*	29.8*	1.6*	22.0	25.7*	-6.6	10.0	23.1*	24.8	6.7*
Windsor	12.9	16.1	28.9*	0.3*	9.3	22.3	25.6*	2.9	25.9	25.6	-7.5	3.4*	25.3*	20.3*	6.3*
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>															
Atikokan	12.6	16.3	21.7	4.1	11.0	20.3	28.3	1.7*	14.3	19.6	3.3*	9.2	12.3	6.1	7.0*
Dryden	9.8	16.3	19.6	-5.2*	13.5*	24.2*	23.9	-0.1	14.3	17.3	-2.3*	-2.6	10.5*	11.7	3.5*
Port Frances	13.2	23.9	54.9*	-8.3	13.6*	16.6	26.2*	3.9	20.5	14.8	2.2	0.0	-1.5	44.0	6.3
Geraldton	11.2	8.3	16.9	-2.6	11.9	21.3	26.9*	1.1	15.3	17.3	2.4*	17.4	19.1	13.9	10.5*
Ignace	12.5	10.2*	18.1*	3.8*	14.4*	23.3*	28.3*	8.7*	20.1	19.0*	3.7	-5.0	9.8	20.0*	7.2*
Kenora	11.5	13.2	18.4	-3.2	7.9	23.2	24.2*	1.4	30.4	14.8	-0.8	15.3	12.1	35.3*	8.8*
Marathon	11.7	13.6	18.8	4.7*	6.2	11.3*	34.4	4.3	21.0	25.7*	-4.9*	20.1	14.7*	3.6*	4.1*
Rainy River	8.9	11.6	19.2	-2.6	4.5	18.9	23.0	-0.3	16.6	16.5	3.7	-8.8	9.7*	2.8	4.6*
Red Lake	11.1	15.6	21.3	3.3*	7.6	9.2*	19.7	2.7*	19.6*	18.5*	-1.0*	10.5*	18.1*	18.5*	8.2*
St. Louis Lookout	13.1	4.6	25.1	1.7	9.8*	28.0*	34.8	2.4	23.6	20.1*	2.9*	8.5	14.9*	16.3*	9.0*
Thunder Bay	13.5	14.4*	20.2*	-2.4*	7.4*	28.2*	36.3*	5.3	24.0*	19.8*	-6.2*	14.6	37.2*	16.0*	10.8*
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>															
Blind River	10.3	8.4	22.4	-6.3	7.7	14.6	38.5	-1.6	20.5	22.3	6.6	4.1	4.2	11.3	6.2
Chapleau	11.8	13.2	21.9*	-2.1*	5.5	14.7	24.0	-3.1	20.0*	17.0*	0.7	4.6	26.7*	21.7	11.8*
Cochrane	9.7	10.3	27.7	-10.0	8.1	18.7	23.1	-4.8	25.7	11.4	15.4*	4.6	6.0*	7.4	10.5*
Elliot Lake	12.5	9.9	28.4*	1.3*	8.7	23.7	31.4*	0.6	18.6	17.7	4.2*	2.3	14.3*	8.4	8.0*
Espanola	12.2	15.8*	25.7	-6.5	8.9	23.0	27.2	2.5	24.9	23.1	5.3*	3.3	13.4*	14.3*	9.0*
Hearst	14.2	13.1	27.0	4.7	16.5	28.1*	31.8*	3.9	17.6	20.4	9.0	9.2	12.8	9.1	10.3
Iroquois Falls	14.3	10.5	16.3*	10.0*	18.1	24.2*	39.4*	2.5	17.3	17.9	6.0*	4.6	7.7*	20.8*	8.1*
Kapuskasing	14.3	10.3	34.0*	4.6*	10.0*	26.9*	26.2*	4.0	22.0	26.0*	5.3	16.8	15.8	2.6	8.7*
Kirkland Lake	12.9	14.3	28.3*	0.4	10.9*	7.2*	31.7*	3.9*	23.2*	24.8*	1.6*	2.0	11.8	35.0*	7.8*
Manitowish Island	16.0	14.2	27.3	-1.6	7.2	27.6*	43.3*	5.6*	23.6	24.7	12.1*	4.8	18.9	15.0*	14.2*
Moosonee	12.8	11.8	22.0	9.7	12.5	24.3	33.9	0.4	12.0	19.4	1.4	2.5	6.4	7.9	3.9
New Liskeard	14.2	10.9	25.1	2.8*	11.0*	21.7*	31.9*	3.7*	25.1*	26.3*	-1.1*	18.1*	13.4	45.4*	9.7*
North Bay	13.8	11.6*	27.6	5.1*	13.4*	17.3*	35.9*	3.4*	23.6*	26.1*	-9.2	15.5	14.1*	47.0*	5.7*
Sault Ste. Marie	14.8	12.6	26.8	5.7*	5.7*	16.5	33.6*	5.5	27.7*	17.6*	1.9*	29.5*	18.3*	34.9*	12.6*
Sturgeon Falls	14.5	13.4	29.9*	2.8*	13.2*	16.5	27.6*	3.7	27.0*	26.4*	-2.9	8.3	17.9*	37.4*	5.8*
Sudbury	14.9	15.6	31.6*	3.3*	11.2*	22.7*	28.9*	8.9*	21.3*	22.9	-2.9	14.1	35.5*	8.5*	11.3*
Timmins	13.2	11.3	29.1*	-0.1*	11.0*	22.7*	25.6*	4.0	27.7*	23.3*	4.6*	0.0	13.2	10.6*	8.4*
Wawa	14.0	12.6	28.3*	0.5	14.9*	33.5*	23.0	5.2*	18.6	21.8*	11.2*	6.6	14.9	0.2	10.7*

Notes:

1. Specials are included for all locations.
2. *Specials in 1980.

Table 4: - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

Items	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	Jan.8/80	Jan.8/81	% Change	Jan.10/80	Jan.10/81	% Change
nt. Cabbage (ea.)	.43	.44	2.3	.68	.91	33.8
nt. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.26	.38	46.2	.47	.69	46.8
.S. Celery (ea.)	.67	1.02	52.2	.95	1.38	45.3
.S. Cucumbers (ea.)	.33	.25	-24.2	.49	.50	2.0
.S. Lettuce (head)	.35	.43	22.9	.65	.81	24.6
.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.55	.75	36.4	.89	1.21	36.0
nt. Cooking Onions (2lbs.)	.20	.38	90.0	.44	.69	56.8
FI Potatoes (10 lbs.)	.75	1.60	113.3	1.12	1.89	68.8
.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.54	.54	0.0	.88	.88	0.0
.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.30	.40	33.3	.78	.76	-2.6

Specials are included in the three-store average

Chart 1

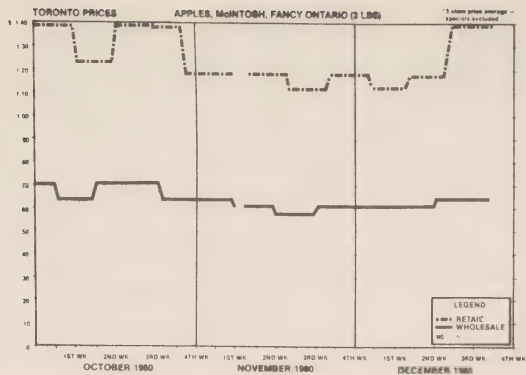


Chart 2

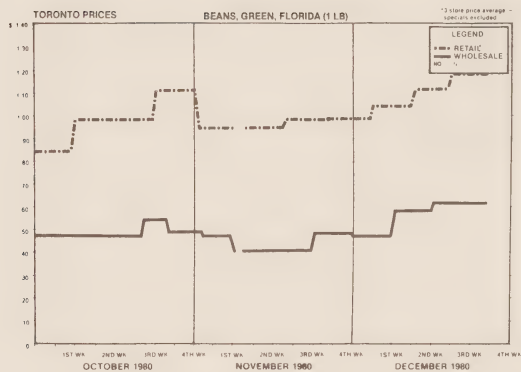


Chart 3

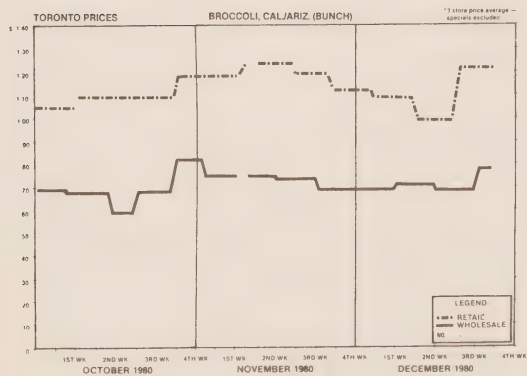


Chart 4

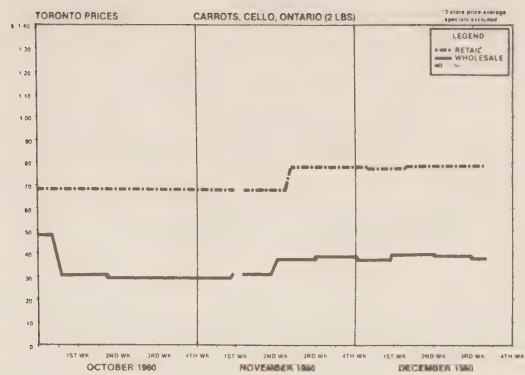


Chart 5

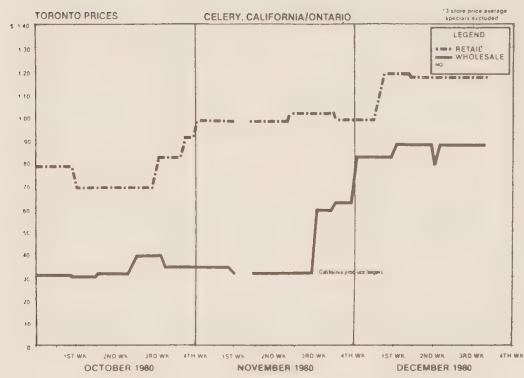


Chart 6

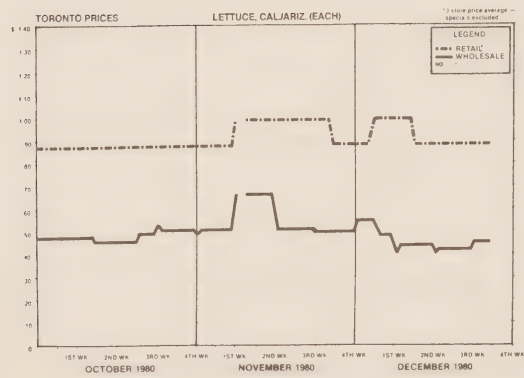


Chart 7

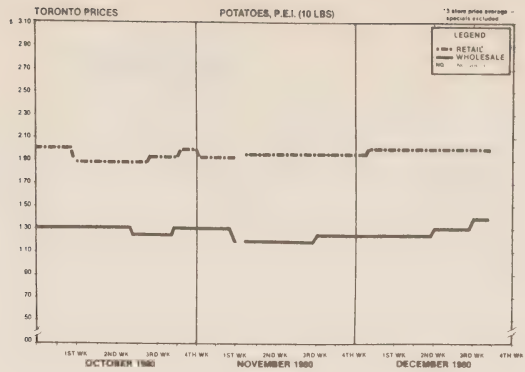


Chart 8

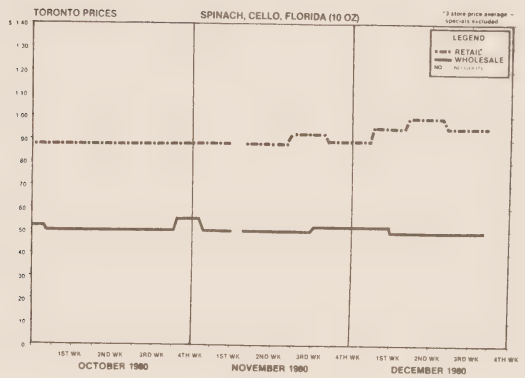
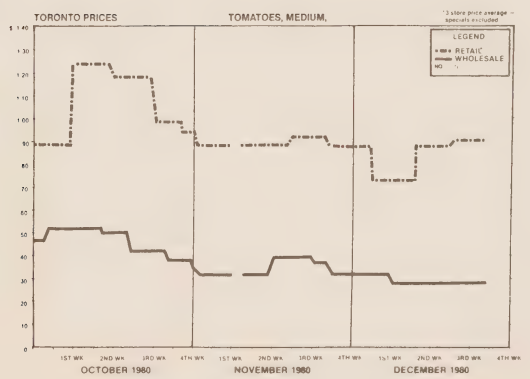


Chart 9



APPENDICIES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices)	Other Groceries
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA2ΦN
CC
- F 56

Report #22



Food Price Monitoring Program



February 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #22

FEBRUARY 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

February, 1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
MILK	
ORANGE JUICE	3
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
APPENDICIES	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: January 10, 1980 to January 8, 1981 February 7, 1980 to February 5, 1981 and January 8, 1981 to February 5, 1981 ...	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Ontario Communities in Ontario, February 7, 1980, January 8, 1981, and February 5, 1981	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	8
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, February 1980 to February 1981	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

In the one month period between January 8, 1981 and February 5, 1981, the price of the 72 monitored items in Toronto rose by 0.9 per cent.

The 4.2 per cent increase in the dairy and eggs category is due mainly to an eight cents per litre increase in the price of 2% milk. The price of cheese, butter, eggs and powdered milk also rose slightly.

The 16.9 per cent increase in the fresh fruit and vegetable category recorded this month can be mainly attributed to price increases in imported Florida produce.

The price of 2 kg. of sugar decreased by 16 per cent which is reflected in the 5.1 per cent decrease in the dry goods category.

The price of peanut butter continued to rise due to the crop failures in the United States which resulted in a shortage of peanuts. This price increase is mainly responsible for the 6.3 per cent increase in the other groceries category.

The price of some cuts of beef decreased this month as a result of the increased supply due to an influx of U.S. imports. The beef category has also showed a 4.3 per cent decrease since February 1980.

Between February 7, 1980 and February 5, 1981, the price of the 72 monitored food items in Toronto rose by 14.5 per cent. Price increases and decreases are available by category in Table 1.

MILK

The Ontario Milk Marketing Board increased the price of fluid milk by 3.5 cents per litre on February 1st. Dairy and retailer increases added another 4.5 cents, resulting in a total increase of 8 cents per litre on 2% milk at retail. The following table shows price changes for the one litre and 3 quart sizes.

Price of 2% milk

	<u>1 litre</u>	<u>3 Qt.</u>
Before Feb. 1	\$.73	\$1.97
After Feb. 1	.81	2.23
% change	11%	13%

The O.M.M.B. increase was based on a formula which takes into account cost increases to farmers. The Ministry requested and received documentation on cost increases from the major Ontario dairies. Increases in processing, energy and distribution, along with higher interest rates, were the main factors behind price increases at the dairy level. Retailers also faced operating cost increases since the last milk price increase.

ORANGE JUICE

The average price of private label, frozen, concentrated orange juice (12½ oz.) increased by 6 per cent during the week of February 16. This food item is imported and is subject to commodity market price changes before it reaches Canada. Prices at the commodity exchange jumped by approximately 28 per cent in response to the news of the Florida frosts in January.

Commodity prices are very sensitive to any news which could affect supply and demand. Over the last

year we have seen the price of coffee and sugar on the commodity market rise and fall. It is likely that the price of frozen orange juice will follow the same trend when the final evaluation of the frost damage is known and consumer resistance to higher retail prices is felt.

Substitution of alternative sources of vitamin C such as apple juice, which can be produced from apples grown in Ontario orchards, would help consumers counteract this recent price increase.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Feb. 7/80 % Difference from Toronto	Jan. 8/81 % Difference from Toronto	Feb. 5/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.9	-0.5	-1.7
Kingston	1.6	0.2	2.1
London	-0.4	-1.3	0.1
Ottawa	-2.0	-0.5	0.9
Owen Sound	-0.7	-0.8	-0.1
Peterborough	0.0	-0.6	-0.9
Windsor	0.3	-1.2	-1.9
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	6.6	8.0	7.9
Dryden	7.0	2.3	4.9
Fort Frances	5.3	3.4	2.3
Geraldton	7.2	3.9	4.5
Ignace	7.1	4.4	5.1
Kenora	5.9	2.5	2.9
Marathon	8.2	5.5	7.7
Rainy River	9.5	4.0	5.4
Red Lake	8.1	4.8	4.7
Sioux Lookout	5.7	6.3	5.3
Thunder Bay	2.6	1.9	2.0
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	6.9	3.1	2.6
Chapleau	7.7	4.7	3.3
Cochrane	3.6	0.6	2.6
Elliot Lake	3.4	2.3	3.5
Espanola	2.7	0.5	2.2
Hearst	5.7	5.5	6.0
Iroquois Falls	1.9	2.0	1.7
Kapuskasing	4.2	2.6	-0.2
Kirkland Lake	2.1	-0.8	1.3
Manitoulin Island	4.6	6.1	5.4
Moosonee	14.1	10.5	11.7
New Liskeard	3.2	1.6	0.7
North Bay	0.6	-0.6	0.7
Sault Ste. Marie	2.4	1.2	0.4
Sturgeon Falls	2.4	0.2	1.4
Sudbury	-0.5	-0.1	-1.5
Timmins	3.8	1.7	3.3
Wawa	4.9	3.8	5.0

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS FOR ALL CENTRES

In the one month period between January 8, 1981 and February 5, 1981, several price increases were recorded that were common to most centres involved in the monitoring.

In the dairy and eggs category the price of milk, butter and eggs increased for all regions. Price increases were also recorded in the cereals and breads category on cereals, cookies and crackers.

The price of fresh fruit and vegetables increased for most centres. The prices of imported produce from Florida increased because of a shortage due to frost.

Increases in the other groceries category can be mainly attributed to increases in the price of peanut butter while price decreases in the dry goods category are due to a decrease in the price of sugar.

Beef prices declined this month due to the surplus created by U.S. imports.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Nov.6/80 to Dec. 4/80	Dec.4/80 to Jan. 8/81	Jan.8/81 to Feb. 5/81
	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	2.1	0.7	0.9
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.8	2.9	-0.4
Kingston	3.6	-1.1	2.7
London	2.2	0.5	2.3
Ottawa	1.2	1.3	1.9
Owen Sound	1.4	0.9	1.6
Peterborough	2.3	0.7	0.5
Windsor	0.8	-0.4	0.2
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	1.0	2.8	0.8
Dryden	1.6	-1.4	3.5
Fort Frances	0.6	2.8	-0.2
Geraldton	2.8	0.2	1.4
Ignace	1.9	0.9	1.6
Kenora	0.1	-0.2	1.3
Marathon	-0.1	2.0	2.9
Rainy River	2.8	-1.4	2.2
Red Lake	3.1	-0.4	0.7
Sioux Lookout	0.1	0.9	-0.1
Thunder Bay	1.2	-0.1	0.9
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-0.3	1.8	0.4
Chapleau	-1.7	1.9	-0.5
Cochrane	0.3	0.4	2.9
Elliot Lake	0.3	0.9	2.1
Espanola	0.5	0.3	2.5
Hearst	1.3	0.3	1.3
Iroquois Falls	2.8	0.5	0.6
Kapuskasing	0.5	1.1	-1.8
Kirkland Lake	2.5	-1.1	3.0
Manitoulin Island	2.4	1.2	0.2
Moosonee	1.2	-0.8	2.0
New Liskeard	2.3	1.9	0.0
North Bay	1.9	0.3	2.2
Sault Ste. Marie	1.1	1.6	0.1
Sturgeon Falls	2.1	-0.2	2.0
Sudbury	-0.8	2.6	-0.6
Timmins	0.3	0.5	2.4
Wawa	1.4	0.7	2.0

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

able 4: - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

	Wholesale			Retail		
	(Toronto Food Terminal)			(Three-Store Average)*		
	Feb.5/80	Feb.5/81	% Change	Feb.6/80	Feb.6/81	% Change
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.26	.42	61.5	.65	.78	20.0
U.S. Celery (ea.)	.38	.46	21.1	.75	.83	10.7
U.S. Cucumbers (ea.)	.22	.42	91.0	.44	.59	34.1
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.38	.45	18.4	.71	.51	-28.2
Ont. Mushrooms (1 lb.)	1.28	1.30	1.6	1.98	1.78	10.1
Ont. Cooking Onions (2lbs.)	.27	.50	85.2	.48	.81	68.8
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	.80	1.80	125.0	1.25	1.78	42.4
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.88	.58	-34.1	.88	.95	8.0
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.37	.80	116.2	.75	1.23	64.0
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.44	1.25	184.1	.99	1.99	101.0

*Specials are included in the three-store average

APPENDICIES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA20N
CC
-F 56

Report #23



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



March 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #23

MARCH 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

March, 1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
APPENDICIES	8

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: February 7, 1980 to February 5, 1981 March 6, 1980 to March 5, 1981 and February 5, 1981 to March 5, 1981	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, March 6, 1980, February 5, 1981 and March 5, 1981	4
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	6
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, March 1980 to March 1981	7

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 0.7 per cent between February 5, 1981 and March 5, 1981.

The 2.9 per cent decrease in the beverage category is due entirely to a special on instant coffee this month; the prices of all other monitored food items in this category remained constant.

The 7.4 per cent increase in the canned juices category was caused mainly by a return to normal prices in March after a number of February specials.

The price of jam and corn syrup rose 7.3 per cent and 9.2 per cent, respectively. This is reflected in the 6.2 per cent increase in the jams and syrups category.

The price decreases of lamb and pork were due mainly to a number of specials this month. These decreases are reflected in the overall price decrease in the meats category.

The price of bread, dry cereal and crackers all rose by over 3.0 per cent this month. Increases in the price of wheat in December 1980, coupled with increased costs of labour, energy and borrowing has affected the items in the cereals and bread category.

The price of dried white beans in the dry goods grocery category rose by 17.3 per cent since February 5, 1981. This change can be traced to increased prices on the world market which has been stimulated by greater world demand for white beans, which provide a good source of protein.

Between March 6, 1980 and March 5, 1981, the price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 14.5 per cent. This is the same price increase experienced between February 7, 1980 and February 5, 1981. Price increases and decreases are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	Feb.7/80 to Feb.5/81 % Change	Mar.6/80 to Mar.5/81 % Change	Feb.5/81 to Mar.5/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	19.2	16.1	1.1
Cereals and Bread	7	32.6	29.6	0.5
Beverages	5	2.5	0.4	-2.9
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	18.2	16.7	1.0
Canned Vegetables	4	17.1	14.1	-0.9
Canned Juices	4	7.0	13.6	7.4
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	34.1	43.9	3.9
Dry Groceries	7	16.9	19.1	0.8
Oils and Fats	4	3.6	4.0	1.5
Jams and Syrups	3	24.1	23.0	6.2
Other Groceries	6	31.5	25.5	0.1
Meats				
Beef	6	-4.3	0.7	2.7
Lamb (frozen)	1	10.1	0.0	-4.6
Pork	5	20.8	15.0	-3.8
Poultry	3	14.5	17.2	1.7
Total	72	14.5	14.5	0.7

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which comprise the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in each community due to problems of availability but the same stores are monitored within the community to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On March 5, 1981 the total price of the 72 monitored items was lower than Toronto in Hamilton; London, Owen Sound and Windsor. A year ago on March 6, 1980, only Hamilton and Ottawa registered lower prices than Toronto. The price spread has narrowed for Kingston and Ottawa between February 5, 1981 and March 5, 1981. Total prices in Peterborough have risen since last month resulting in a 0.1 per cent price spread between Toronto and Peterborough on March 5, 1981.

Northwestern Ontario

On March 5, 1981 the price spreads between Toronto and all 11 communities monitored in Northwestern Ontario decreased since March 6, 1980. Since February 5, 1981, the price spreads have narrowed or stayed the same for all communities except Fort Frances, Kenora and Red Lake.

Northeastern Ontario

Price spreads in 14 of the 18 communities monitored in Northeastern Ontario decreased between March 6, 1980 and March 5, 1981. Prices in Sudbury have remained lower than Toronto since March 6, 1980. Since February 5, 1981, the price spread has narrowed for 9 of the 18 communities.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Mar.6/80 % Difference from Toronto	Feb.5/81 % Difference from Toronto	Mar.5/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.1	-1.7	-0.2
Kingston	0.9	2.1	0.7
London	0.1	0.1	-0.9
Ottawa	-1.6	0.9	0.2
Owen Sound	0.5	-0.1	-0.4
Peterborough	0.3	-0.9	0.1
Windsor	1.2	-1.9	-1.2
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.9	7.9	7.8
Dryden	5.3	4.9	3.4
Fort Frances	4.5	2.3	2.8
Geraldton	7.1	4.5	3.9
Ignace	7.3	5.1	3.2
Kenora	4.6	2.9	3.7
Marathon	9.7	7.7	5.3
Rainy River	9.5	5.4	5.4
Red Lake	8.8	4.7	6.4
Sioux Lookout	8.2	5.3	5.0
Thunder Bay	2.1	2.0	1.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	7.5	2.6	1.9
Chapleau	9.0	3.3	0.9
Cochrane	2.2	2.6	0.3
Elliot Lake	5.0	3.5	2.8
Espanola	1.5	2.2	1.2
Hearst	5.7	6.0	7.2
Iroquois Falls	2.9	1.7	0.3
Kapuskasing	4.9	-0.2	1.8
Kirkland Lake	3.2	1.3	2.8
Manitoulin Island	4.2	5.4	6.7
Moosonee	13.8	11.7	13.2
New Liskeard	3.1	0.7	-0.1
North Bay	1.0	0.7	0.8
Sault Ste. Marie	0.5	0.4	0.6
Sturgeon Falls	4.1	1.4	1.5
Sudbury	-0.5	-1.5	-0.3
Timmins	4.8	3.3	2.5
Wawa	4.9	5.0	4.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS FOR ALL CENTRES

Total prices in 10 of the 37 communities monitored have decreased between February 5, 1981 and March 5, 1981. The price decreases range from 0.1 per cent in Wawa to 1.6 per cent in Chapleau.

Total prices in 2 communities - Timmins and Elliot Lake - remained unchanged from the previous month.

Twenty-five communities experienced price increases between February 5, 1981 and March 5, 1981. These ranged from 0.1 per cent in Blind River to 2.2 per cent in Kapuskasing and Kirkland Lake. The increase in total price in Kirkland Lake is due in part to the lifting of February specials in the meat category this month.

Several price increases were common to most centres this month. These include increases in the price of bread, white dried beans, dry cereals, corn syrup and jam.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Dec.4/80 to Jan.8/81	Jan. 8/81 to Feb. 5/81	Feb. 5/81 to Mar. 5/81
	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	0.7	0.9	0.7
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	2.9	-0.4	2.3
Kingston	-1.1	2.7	-0.6
London	0.5	2.3	-0.3
Ottawa	1.3	1.9	0.5
Owen Sound	0.9	1.6	0.4
Peterborough	0.7	0.5	1.7
Windsor	-0.4	0.2	1.5
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.8	0.8	0.7
Dryden	-1.4	3.5	-0.8
Fort Frances	2.8	-0.2	1.3
Geraldton	0.2	1.4	0.2
Ignace	0.9	1.6	-1.0
Kenora	-0.2	1.3	1.4
Marathon	2.0	2.9	-1.5
Rainy River	-1.4	2.2	0.8
Red Lake	-0.4	0.7	1.7
Sioux Lookout	0.9	-0.1	0.4
Thunder Bay	-0.1	0.9	0.4
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	1.8	0.4	0.1
Chapleau	1.9	-0.5	-1.6
Cochrane	0.4	2.9	-1.5
Elliot Lake	0.9	2.1	0.0
Espanola	0.3	2.5	-0.2
Hearst	0.3	1.3	1.9
Iroquois Falls	0.5	0.6	-0.7
Kapuskasing	1.1	-1.8	2.2
Kirkland Lake	-1.1	3.0	2.2
Manitoulin Island	1.2	0.2	1.9
Moosonee	-0.8	2.0	2.0
New Liskeard	1.9	0.0	0.4
North Bay	0.3	2.2	0.9
Sault Ste. Marie	1.6	0.1	1.0
Sturgeon Falls	-0.2	2.0	0.9
Sudbury	2.6	-0.6	2.0
Timmins	0.5	2.4	0.0
Wawa	0.7	2.0	-0.1

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 4: - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	Mar. 5/80	Mar. 5/81	% Change	Mar. 5/80	Mar. 5/81	% Change
Ont. Carrots 2 lbs.	.25	.46	84.0	.52	.91	75.0
U.S. Celery (ea.)	.45	.46	2.2	.99	.85	-14.1
U.S. Cucumbers (ea.)	.23	.30	30.4	.47	.56	19.1
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.39	.52	33.3	.99	.81	-18.2
Ont. Mushrooms (1 lb.)	1.28	1.40	9.4	1.88	1.85	-1.6
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lb.)	.27	.54	100.0	.48	.88	83.3
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	.70	1.55	121.4	1.21	2.18	80.2
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.88	.63	-28.4	.68	.95	39.7
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.32	.80	150.0	.65	1.55	138.5
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.56	1.09	94.6	1.09	1.99	82.6

*Specials are included in the three-store average

APPENDICIES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

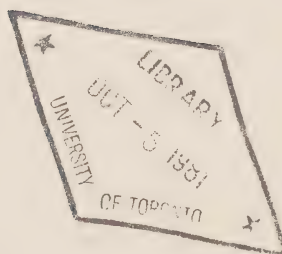
CA26N
CC
-F56

Report #24

W4

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



April 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #24

APRIL 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

April, 1981

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: March 6, 1980 to March 5, 1981 April 3, 1980 to April 2, 1981 and March 5, 1981 to April 2, 1981	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, April 3, 1980, March 5, 1981 and April 2, 1981	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	7
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, April 1980 to April 1981	8

INDEX TO CHARTS

<u>Chart</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Apples, MacIntosh (3 lbs.)	9
2.	Beans (1 lb.)	9
3.	Broccoli (bunch)	9
4.	Carrots (2 lbs.)	10
5.	Celery (each)	10
6.	Lettuce (head)	10
7.	Potatoes (10 lbs.)	11
8.	Spinach (10 oz.)	11
9.	Tomatoes (1 lb.)	11
10.	Cucumbers (each)	12
11.	Onions (2 lbs.)	12

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 1.8 per cent between March 5, 1981 and April 2, 1981.

The 1.4 per cent increase in the cereals and bread category is due mainly to an increase in the price of cereal in addition to the lifting of a March special on this item. This increase is due to increased wheat prices in December 1980, which are now being felt at the food processing stage, and higher costs for labour, energy and borrowing. The lifting of two specials on chocolate chip cookies has also contributed to the April increase.

The 3.3 per cent increase in the beverages category was due mainly to the lifting of a March special on instant coffee.

A number of specials in the canned vegetables category this month account for the 2.9 per cent decrease.

The prices of tomatoes and potatoes each rose by over 20.0 per cent this month. Tomato prices have been affected by a severe January frost in Florida which has reduced supplies. Supplies of P.E.I. potatoes are also running low, a common occurrence for stored vegetables at this time of the year. This factor, in addition to the lifting of a March special on potatoes accounts for the price increase. These price increases and the lifting of specials on a number of other items are reflected in the 8.8 per cent increase in the fresh fruits and vegetables category.

The 7.3 per cent increase in the dry groceries category is due to the lifting of two specials on converted rice and a slight increase in the price of dried white beans.

The price of honey has increased by over 6.0 per cent this month and accounts for the 1.2 per cent increase in the jams and syrup category. Increased cost factors such as higher rates for energy, borrowing, and materials have affected the price of liquid honey which remained relatively stable during 1980.

A number of March specials on beef and lamb items have been lifted resulting in a price increase in both of these categories for April. Specials this month on pork and poultry items account for the price decrease in these categories.

Between April 3, 1980 and April 2, 1981, the price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 15.7 per cent. Price increases and decreases are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	Mar.6/80 to Mar.5/81 % Change	Apr.3/80 to Apr.2/81 % Change	Mar.5/81 to Apr.2/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	16.1	16.9	0.0
Cereals and Bread	7	29.6	27.8	1.4
Beverages	5	0.4	2.5	3.3
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	16.7	17.1	1.0
Canned Vegetables	4	14.1	10.9	-2.9
Canned Juices	4	13.6	15.9	0.6
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	43.9	42.7	8.8
Dry Groceries	7	19.1	20.8	7.3
Oils and Fats	4	4.0	- 0.9	-1.0
Jams and Syrups	3	23.0	19.5	1.2
Other Groceries	6	25.5	24.9	0.0
Meats				
Beef	6	0.7	6.6	2.7
Lamb (frozen)	1	0.0	16.0	4.8
Pork	5	15.0	11.7	-3.6
Poultry	3	17.2	25.8	-6.3
Total	72	14.5	15.7	1.8

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which make up the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in all cases since they are not represented in each community. The same stores are monitored in each community every month, however, to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On April 2, 1981 the total price of the 72 monitored items was lower than Toronto in all seven southern Ontario communities. Of these seven communities, Hamilton, Ottawa, Owen Sound and Peterborough were between 1.7 and 2.1 per cent lower. Last year on April 3, 1980, only London, Ottawa and Peterborough recorded total prices lower than Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

As of April 2, 1981 the price spreads between Toronto and 10 of the 11 communities monitored in northwestern Ontario were lower than they were a year ago. Price spreads in 10 of the 11 communities were also lower than they were on March 5, 1981.

Northeastern Ontario

Price spreads between Toronto and 17 of the 18 communities monitored in northeastern Ontario have improved since April 3, 1980.

Since March 5, 1981, the price spread has improved for 12 of the 18 communities monitored. Four communities - Kapuskasing, Kirkland Lake, North Bay, Sturgeon Falls - registered lower prices than Toronto this month. This is due to a higher than usual increase in the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto and the fact that total prices in these four northeastern communities have remained roughly the same since March 5, 1981.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Apr.3/80 % Difference from Toronto	Mar.5/81 % Difference from Toronto	Apr.2/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.5	-0.2	-1.7
Kingston	1.5	0.7	-0.4
London	-0.5	-0.9	-0.5
Ottawa	-1.7	0.2	-2.1
Owen Sound	0.4	-0.4	-1.7
Peterborough	-1.6	0.1	-2.0
Windsor	1.3	-1.2	-0.3
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.5	7.8	5.8
Dryden	4.4	3.4	3.0
Fort Frances	5.1	2.8	0.3
Geraldton	4.5	3.9	3.3
Ignace	8.1	3.2	4.8
Kenora	2.0	3.7	2.4
Marathon	9.8	5.3	1.6
Rainy River	8.2	5.4	4.5
Red Lake	8.0	6.4	4.6
Sioux Lookout	8.4	5.0	2.6
Thunder Bay	3.4	1.6	0.4
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	6.3	1.9	1.7
Chapleau	8.6	0.9	1.4
Cochrane	3.5	0.3	0.4
Elliot Lake	4.7	2.8	2.0
Espanola	2.5	1.2	0.3
Hearst	5.2	7.2	4.7
Iroquois Falls	1.7	0.3	0.4
Kapuskasing	4.9	1.8	-0.2
Kirkland Lake	2.9	2.8	-0.8
Manitoulin Island	4.5	6.7	3.7
Moosonee	14.3	13.2	9.4
New Liskeard	1.7	-0.1	0.3
North Bay	0.7	0.8	-0.2
Sault Ste. Marie	1.4	0.6	1.5
Sturgeon Falls	4.0	1.5	-0.2
Sudbury	0.3	-0.3	0.1
Timmins	4.2	2.5	1.2
Wawa	4.0	4.1	2.6

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS FOR ALL CENTRES

Total prices in 10 of the 37 communities monitored have decreased between March 5, 1981 and April 2, 1981. The price decreases range from 0.1 in Atikokan to 1.8 in Marathon.

Total prices in two communities - Red Lake and Sturgeon Falls - remained unchanged from the previous month.

Twenty-five communities experienced increases in the cost of the 72 item basket between March 5, 1981 and April 2, 1981. These price increases ranged from 0.3 per cent in Hamilton and Wawa to 3.3 per cent in Ignace. The increase in total price in Ignace is due in part to the lifting of a number of March specials.

Several price increases were common to most centres this month. They include increases in the price of shredded wheat, liquid honey, tomatoes, cookies, crackers and jam.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Jan.8/81 to Feb.5/81 % Difference	Feb.5/81 to Mar.5/81 % Difference	Mar.5/81 to Apr.2/81 % Difference
Toronto	0.9	0.7	1.8
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.4	2.3	0.3
Kingston	2.7	-0.6	0.6
London	2.3	-0.3	2.2
Ottawa	1.9	0.5	0.9
Owen Sound	1.6	0.4	0.5
Peterborough	0.5	1.7	-0.3
Windsor	0.2	1.5	2.7
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.8	0.7	-0.1
Dryden	3.5	-0.8	1.4
Fort Frances	-0.2	1.3	-0.7
Geraldton	1.4	0.2	1.1
Ignace	1.6	-1.0	3.3
Kenora	1.3	1.4	0.6
Marathon	2.9	-1.5	-1.8
Rainy River	2.2	0.8	0.9
Red Lake	0.7	1.7	0.0
Sioux Lookout	-0.1	0.4	-0.5
Thunder Bay	0.9	0.4	0.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.4	0.1	1.6
Chapleau	-0.5	-1.6	2.2
Cochrane	2.9	-1.5	1.8
Elliot Lake	2.1	0.0	0.9
Espanola	2.5	-0.2	0.9
Hearst	1.3	1.9	-0.6
Iroquois Falls	0.6	-0.7	1.9
Kapuskasing	-1.8	2.2	-0.2
Kirkland Lake	3.0	2.2	-1.7
Manitoulin Island	0.2	1.9	-1.0
Moosonee	2.0	2.0	-1.6
New Liskeard	0.0	0.4	2.1
North Bay	2.2	0.9	0.7
Sault Ste. Marie	0.1	1.0	2.7
Sturgeon Falls	2.0	0.9	0.0
Sudbury	-0.6	2.0	2.2
Timmins	2.4	0.0	0.4
Wawa	2.0	-0.1	0.3

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 4: - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	Apr.3/80	Apr.2/81	% Change	Apr.3/80	Apr.2/81	% Change
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	\$0.23	\$0.42	82.6	\$0.45	\$0.91	102.2
J.S. Celery (ea.)	.40	.41	2.5	.85	.78	-8.2
J.S. Cucumbers (ea.)	.46	.33	-28.3	.62	.62	0.0
J.S. Lettuce (head)	.63	.47	-25.4	.85	.88	3.5
Ont. Mushrooms (1 lb.)	1.28	1.40	9.4	1.99	1.63	-18.1
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.20	.56	180.0	.45	.95	111.1
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	.65	1.75	169.2	1.18	2.71	129.7
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.63	.58	-7.9	.98	.95	-3.1
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.34	.90	164.7	1.05	1.95	85.7
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.63	.44	-30.2	1.09	.95	-12.8

*Specials are included in the three-store average

Chart 1

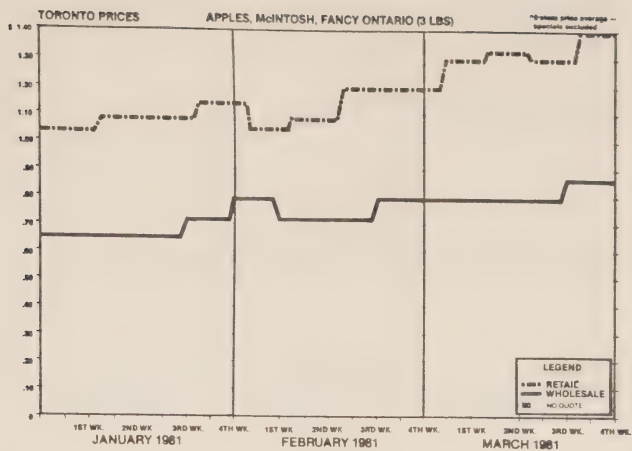


Chart 2

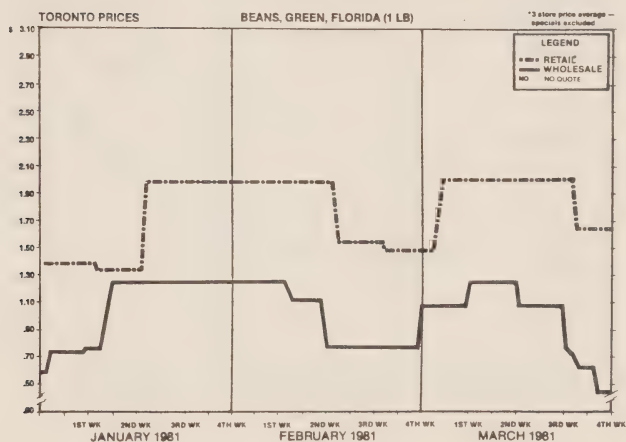


Chart 3

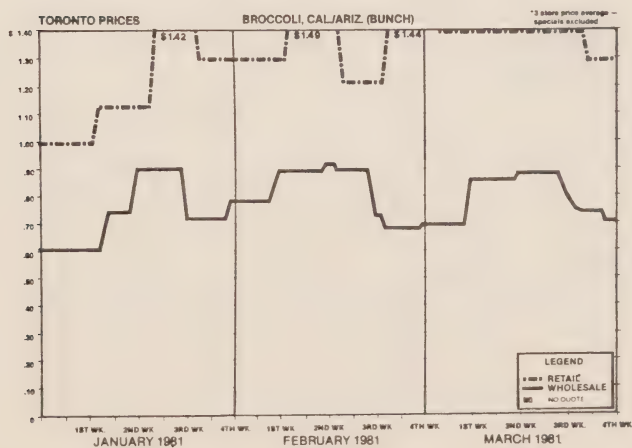


Chart 4

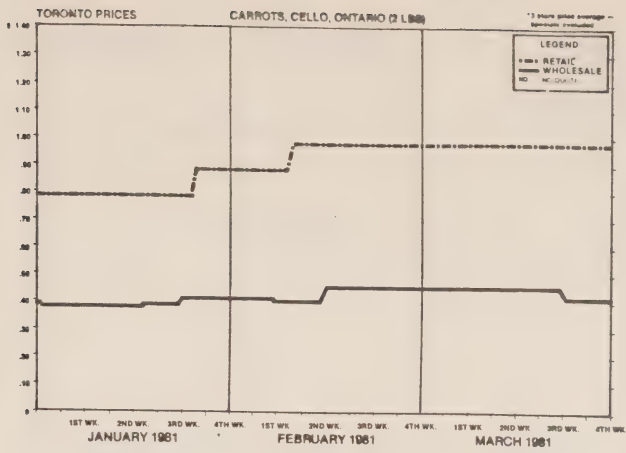


Chart 5

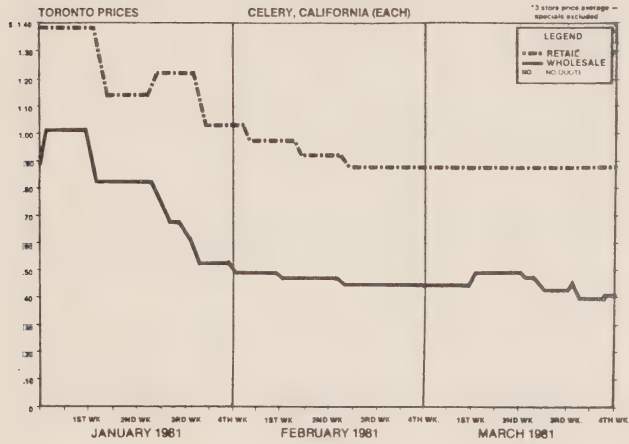


Chart 6

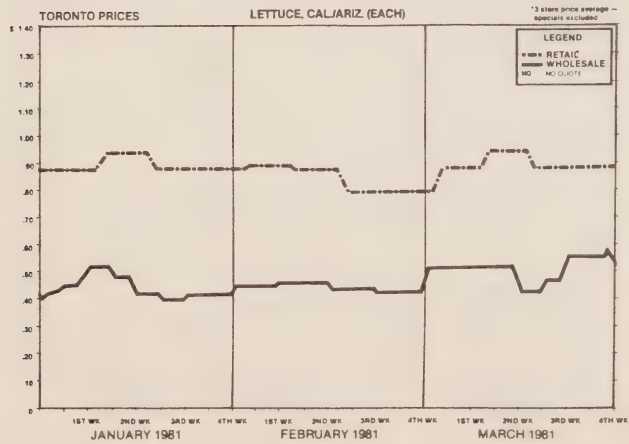


Chart 7

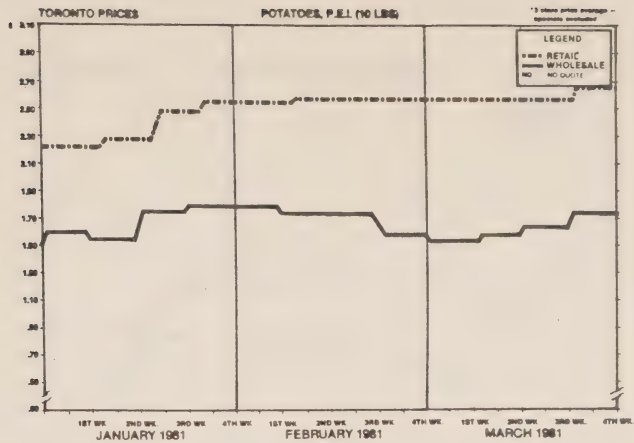


Chart 8

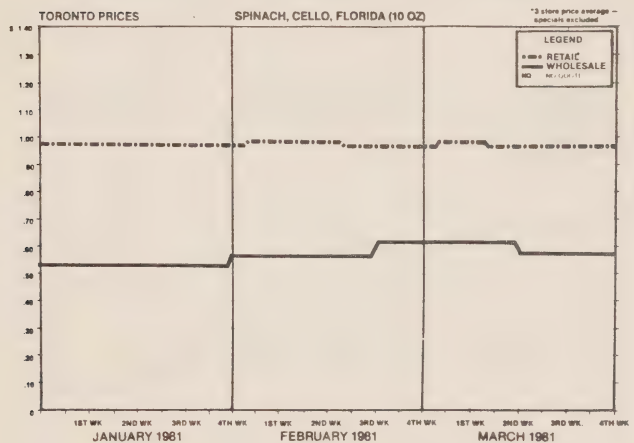


Chart 9

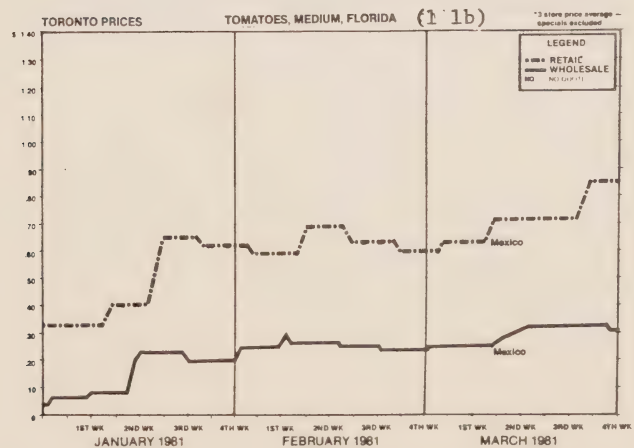


Chart 10

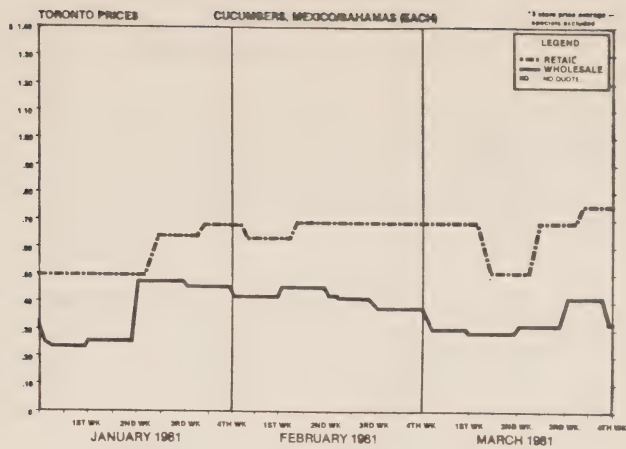
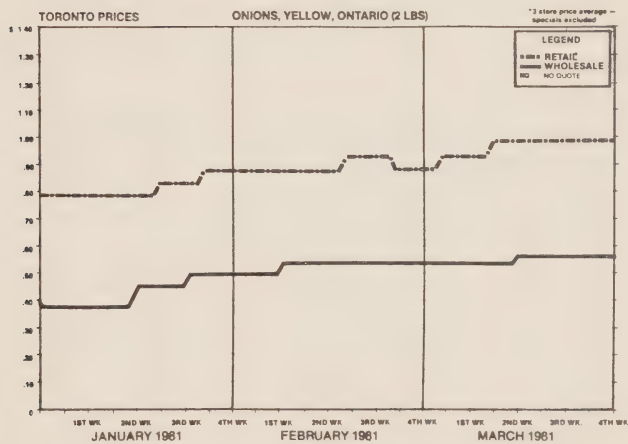


Chart 11



APPENDICIES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA24N
CC
-F 56

Report #25

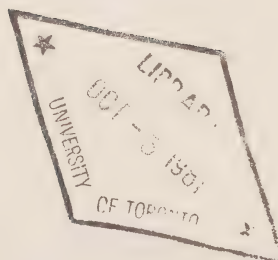
✓✓4



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



May 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #25

MAY 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

May 1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
MENUS COMPOSED FROM SPECIALS AVAILABLE IN TORONTO STORES	9
APPENDICES	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: April 3, 1980 to April 2, 1981 May 8, 1980 to May 7, 1981 April 2, 1981 to May 7, 1981	2
1a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for Southern Ontario Centres: April 2, 1981 to May 7, 1981 May 8, 1980 to May 7, 1981	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, May 8, 1980, April 2, 1981, and May 7, 1981	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	7
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, May 8, 1980 to May 7, 1981	8
5. Three Menus Composed from Specials Available in Toronto Stores Between April 29 and May 20, 1981	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 1.1 per cent between April 2, 1981 and May 7, 1981.

The 3.0 per cent increase in the dairy and eggs category was due to increases in the price of butter, processed cheese and instant powdered milk.

The 1.9 per cent increase in the beverages category was due to an increase in the price of instant chocolate and the lifting of an April special on coffee.

A May special in the canned fruits category accounted for the 2.8 per cent decrease. The lifting of April specials in the canned vegetables category explains the 4.4 per cent increase. The 4.3 per cent increase in the canned juices category was due mainly to an increase in the price of vegetable juice.

A 48.4 per cent decrease in the price of fresh tomatoes this month has affected the fresh fruit and vegetables category.

A 16.1 per cent decrease in the price of sugar accounts for the 2.6 per cent decrease in the dry groceries category.

The lifting of an April special and an increase in the price of margarine has resulted in a 3.6 per cent increase in the oils and fats category.

The 4.1 per cent increase in the other groceries category is due to an increase in the price of peanut butter. Poor crops have significantly increased the world price for peanuts.

The 2.0 per cent decrease in the beef category is due to a number of specials this month. The price rise in the pork and poultry categories is due to the lifting of April specials.

Between May 8, 1980 and May 7, 1981, the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 16.7 per cent. Price increases are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	Apr.3/80 to Apr.2/81 % Change	May 8/80 to May 7/81 % Change	Apr.2/81 to May 7/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	16.9	19.1	3.0
Cereals and Bread	7	27.8	27.6	0.0
Beverages	5	2.5	6.1	1.9
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	17.1	12.0	-2.8
Canned Vegetables	4	10.9	18.3	4.4
Canned Juices	4	15.9	20.9	4.3
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	42.7	21.1	-4.5
Dry Groceries	7	20.8	15.2	-2.6
Oils and Fats	4	-0.9	5.8	3.6
Jams and Syrups	3	19.5	17.1	-0.6
Other Groceries	6	24.9	32.0	4.1
Meats				
Beef	6	6.6	5.2	-2.0
Lamb (frozen)	1	16.0	13.1	2.8
Pork	5	11.7	25.8	6.2
Poultry	3	25.8	34.3	5.9
Total	72	15.7	16.7	1.1

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Table 1a: - Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for Southern Ontario Centres*

Community	Total	Dairy & Eggs		Cereals & Bread		Beverages		Canned Fruits & Vegetables & Juices		Fresh Fruit & Veg.		Dry Groceries		Oils & Fats		Jams & Syrups		Other Groceries		Beef		Lamb		Pork		Poultry		Meat	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
APRIL 2, 1981 to MAY 7, 1981**																													
Toronto	1.1	3.0	0.0	1.9	2.7	-4.5	-2.6	3.6	-0.6	4.1	-2.0	2.8	6.2	5.9	2.0														
Hamilton	2.0	2.7	0.1	6.6	3.4	-0.2	-1.4	6.1	0.0	2.7	-1.8	-0.9	5.4	1.7	1.0														
Kingston	0.5	3.3	6.8	0.2	1.3	-7.8	-1.2	1.4	0.0	3.9	0.7	1.8	1.3	-7.3	-0.2														
London	0.6	1.7	-1.0	3.1	2.3	-2.1	-4.0	3.2	-1.2	2.8	-5.4	9.6	5.9	7.4	0.9														
Ottawa	-0.5	1.2	0.3	0.3	-0.5	-5.7	-3.8	2.2	1.3	4.2	0.2	-2.8	-4.7	6.4	-0.8														
Owen Sound	1.3	4.3	1.7	0.3	1.2	2.6	-2.6	1.7	1.4	5.3	-2.3	1.4	2.6	5.4	0.6														
Peterborough	1.1	3.6	-1.8	1.4	2.0	-0.4	-5.1	0.4	0.4	6.0	-2.6	11.6	10.0	0.4	2.6														
Windsor	-2.0	1.6	0.5	-7.5	2.9	-10.4	-0.9	-3.5	1.8	3.6	0.1	-3.4	-3.4	-4.8	-2.0														
MAY 8, 1980 to MAY 7, 1981																													
Toronto	16.7	19.1	27.6	6.1	18.3	21.1	15.2	5.8	17.1	32.0	5.2	13.1	25.8	34.3	15.7														
Hamilton	16.3	10.6	27.9	6.6	12.6	21.7	20.1	4.8	17.8	30.6	10.7	6.5	21.0	43.7	17.6														
Kingston	13.0	15.4	29.8	-1.2	14.2	18.1	15.0	6.8	15.5	27.7	3.7	16.6	17.1	13.7	9.9														
London	15.1	16.4	23.6	4.6	17.3	22.2	17.4	4.4	17.9	30.3	5.3	13.4	16.9	28.1	12.6														
Ottawa	15.9	14.0	32.4	-0.7	24.2	19.1	18.4	5.7	24.0	39.9	7.6	3.9	12.3	41.3	12.7														
Owen Sound	15.3	14.7	26.2	0.0	16.7	19.1	18.5	7.3	22.8	29.4	0.8	10.1	29.4	47.0	15.1														
Peterborough	14.8	14.2	22.4	1.2	18.4	21.9	15.1	2.5	18.4	30.8	3.8	10.0	29.1	33.3	15.4														
Windsor	14.1	16.1	24.9	2.4	18.3	17.3	18.2	-0.7	18.8	31.6	7.0	-2.0	25.8	5.5	11.6														

Note: *Similar breakdowns for northwestern and northeastern Ontario communities will appear in the next two issues of the Food Price Monitoring Program Report.

**Please be reminded that the price changes take account of specials for this month and for the comparison periods. The effect of the specials will be greater in the smaller categories of food items.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which make up the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in all cases since they are not represented in each community. The same stores are monitored in each community every month, however, to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On May 7, 1981 the total price of the 72 monitored items was lower than Toronto in all seven southern Ontario communities monitored. Three communities - Ottawa, Peterborough, and Windsor - were between 2.0 and 4.4 per cent lower. Last year on May 8, 1980, only five of the seven communities recorded total prices lower than Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

As of May 7, 1981 the price spreads between Toronto and all 11 communities monitored were lower than on May 8, 1980. Price spreads in six of the 11 communities monitored were also lower than they were on April 2, 1981.

Northeastern Ontario

Price spreads between Toronto and all 18 communities monitored in northeastern Ontario have improved since May 8, 1980. Since April 2, 1981, the price spreads have improved for 11 of the 18 communities. Five communities - Cochrane, Espanola, New Liskeard, North Bay and Sudbury - registered lower prices than Toronto this month.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	May 8/80 % Difference from Toronto	Apr. 2/81 % Difference from Toronto	May 7/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.5	-1.7	-0.8
Kingston	2.3	-0.4	-1.0
London	0.4	-0.5	-1.0
Ottawa	-1.5	-2.1	-2.1
Owen Sound	-0.2	-1.7	-1.4
Peterborough	-0.4	-2.0	-2.0
Windsor	-1.2	-0.3	-4.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	9.1	5.8	5.5
Dryden	7.1	3.0	4.3
Fort Frances	5.8	0.3	-1.2
Geraldton	6.2	3.3	3.0
Ignace	6.5	4.8	2.7
Kenora	5.3	2.4	2.5
Marathon	9.0	1.6	4.0
Rainy River	7.8	4.5	4.3
Red Lake	6.0	4.6	3.4
Sioux Lookout	8.2	2.6	2.9
Thunder Bay	2.4	0.4	1.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	6.4	1.7	1.2
Chapleau	7.1	1.4	0.5
Cochrane	5.1	0.4	-0.6
Elliot Lake	4.8	2.0	1.2
Espanola	4.2	0.3	-0.1
Hearst	5.9	4.7	3.3
Iroquois Falls	1.7	0.4	0.6
Kapuskasing	2.6	-0.2	1.2
Kirkland Lake	1.2	-0.8	0.8
Manitoulin Island	5.4	3.7	4.0
Moosonee	15.0	9.4	8.5
New Liskeard	2.8	0.3	-0.3
North Bay	0.5	-0.2	-0.6
Sault Ste. Marie	2.1	1.5	0.9
Sturgeon Falls	2.8	-0.2	0.7
Sudbury	-0.2	0.1	-1.0
Timmins	3.0	1.2	1.7
Wawa	4.5	2.6	3.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS FOR ALL CENTRES

Total prices in six of the 37 communities monitored have decreased between April 2, 1981 and May 7, 1981. The price decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Red Lake to 2.0 per cent in Windsor.

Total prices in Sudbury remained unchanged from the previous month.

Thirty communities experienced increases between April 2, 1981 and May 7, 1981. These price increases ranged from 0.1 in Cochrane to 3.5 per cent in Marathon.

Price decreases for sugar and fresh tomatoes, and price increases for peanut butter and instant chocolate were common to most centres this month.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Feb. 5/81 to Mar. 5/81 % Difference	Mar. 5/81 to Apr. 2/81 % Difference	Apr. 2/81 to May 7/81 % Difference
Toronto	0.7	1.8	1.1
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	2.3	0.3	2.0
Kingston	-0.6	0.6	0.5
London	-0.3	2.2	0.6
Ottawa	0.5	0.9	-0.5
Owen Sound	0.4	0.5	1.3
Peterborough	1.7	-0.3	1.1
Windsor	1.5	2.7	-2.0
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.7	-0.1	0.7
Dryden	-0.8	1.4	2.4
Fort Frances	1.3	-0.7	-0.5
Geraldton	0.2	1.1	0.8
Ignace	-1.0	3.3	-0.9
Kenora	1.4	0.6	1.2
Marathon	-1.5	-1.8	3.5
Rainy River	0.8	0.9	0.9
Red Lake	1.7	0.0	-0.1
Sioux Lookout	0.4	-0.5	1.4
Thunder Bay	0.4	0.6	2.4
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.1	1.6	0.6
Chapleau	-1.6	2.2	0.2
Cochrane	-1.5	1.8	0.1
Elliot Lake	0.0	0.9	0.3
Espanola	-0.2	0.9	0.6
Hearst	1.9	-0.6	-0.3
Iroquois Falls	-0.7	1.9	1.3
Kapuskasing	2.2	-0.2	2.4
Kirkland Lake	2.2	-1.7	2.7
Manitoulin Island	1.9	-1.0	1.4
Moosonee	2.0	-1.6	0.3
New Liskeard	0.4	2.1	0.4
North Bay	0.9	0.7	0.6
Sault Ste. Marie	1.0	2.7	0.4
Sturgeon Falls	0.9	0.0	2.0
Sudbury	2.0	2.2	0.0
Timmins	0.0	0.4	1.6
Wawa	-0.1	0.3	1.5

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 4 : - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	May 8/80	May 7/81	% Change	May 8/80	May 7/81	% Change
Ont./Calif. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.27	.50	85.2	.59	1.05	78.0
U.S. Celery (each)	.48	.88	83.3	.92	1.26	37.0
U.S. Cucumbers (each)	.26	.31	19.2	.54	.53	-1.9
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.63	.60	-4.8	1.12	.68	-39.3
Ont. Mushrooms (1 lb.)	1.25	1.40	12.0	1.88	2.09	11.2
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.38	.56	47.4	.59	1.15	94.9
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	.65	1.75	169.2	1.25	2.78	122.4
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.56	.60	7.1	.88	.95	8.0
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.49	.30	-38.8	1.28	.92	-28.1
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.34	.53	55.9	.85	1.02	20.0

*Specials are included in the three-store average

MENUS COMPOSED FROM SPECIALS AVAILABLE
IN TORONTO STORES

Over the period of the last six weeks we have been composing menus for a family of four based on food items advertised as specials in Toronto newspapers to determine how much consumers can save when planning meals around specials.

We have attempted to include meat, fish, or eggs, vegetables, starch, fruit and dairy products in each menu. However, these menus do not necessarily represent the best nutritional value.

Each menu was prepared from the specials available in one store. Five different stores were used in the preparation of the 15 menus. The results show that a consumer can save between 17 and 40 per cent by buying items on special. We have included three menus to demonstrate potential savings per meal.

Table 5:- Three Menus Composed from Specials Available in Toronto
Stores Between April 29 and May 20, 1981

	Prices		
	<u>Special</u>	<u>Regular</u>	
<u>APRIL 29, 1981</u>			
Fresh boneless pork roast, 3 lb.	\$3.00	\$4.86	
Canned green beans, 2/ 14 oz.	1.00	1.18	
Creamed corn, 2/ 14 oz.	1.00	1.26	
Macaroni	.25	.39	
Apple strudel	1.00	1.65	
Cheddar cheese, 12 oz.	<u>2.00</u>	<u>2.29</u>	% Saving
TOTAL	\$8.25	\$11.63	29.1%
<u>MAY 6, 1981</u>			
Roast Beef, 3 lb.	\$8.94	\$11.94	
Canned Peas (fancy), 14 fl. oz.	.40	.57	
Canned Corn (creamed), 14 fl. oz.	.40	.63	
Yorkshire Pudding - Flour, 454 g.	.34	.41	
Tomatoes, 1 lb.	.78	.99	
McIntosh Apples, 1 lb.	<u>.43</u>	<u>.46</u>	% Saving
TOTAL	\$11.29	\$15.00	24.7%
<u>MAY 20, 1981</u>			
Chicken parts, 4 lbs.	\$3.52	\$5.44	
Potatoes, white, new, 1½ lbs.	.38	.78	
Spinach, frozen, 12 oz.	.63	.69	
Mushrooms, 1 lb.	1.78	2.65	
Strawberries, 1 quart	<u>.98</u>	<u>1.88</u>	% Saving
TOTAL	\$7.29	\$11.44	36.3%

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CASAN
CC
-F 56

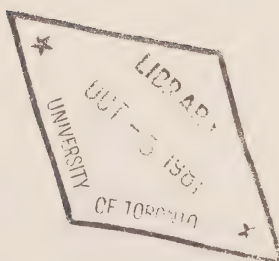
Report #26



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



June 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #26

JUNE 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

June 1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
APPENDICES	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: May 8, 1980 to May 7, 1981 June 5, 1980 to June 4, 1981 May 7, 1981 to June 4, 1981	2
1a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for Northwestern Ontario centres: May 7, 1981 to June 4, 1981 June 5, 1980 to June 4, 1981	3
1b. 3-Store Average of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, June 4, 1981	4
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, June 5, 1980, May 7, 1981 and June 4, 1981	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	8
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, June 5, 1980 to June 4, 1981	9

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 0.1 per cent between May 7, 1981 and June 4, 1981.

The 0.4 per cent increase in the dairy and eggs category is due to an increase in the price of cheese.

A number of June specials on flour account for the 0.5 decrease in the cereals and bread category this month.

Specials this month on instant coffee and tea are responsible for the 3.5 per cent decrease in the beverage category.

A June special in the canned fruits category accounts for the 0.5 per cent decrease. The 2.3 per cent increase in the canned vegetables category is due to increases in the prices of canned beans and canned corn. Specials this month in the canned juice category have resulted in the 4.1 per cent decrease.

An increase in the price of onions and carrots and the lifting of a number of May specials account for the 10.9 per cent increase in the fresh fruit and vegetables category.

The 3.7 per cent decrease in the dry groceries category is due to a number of June specials and a further decrease in the price of sugar. A June special has affected the oils and fats category.

The 2.7 per cent increase in the beef category is due mainly to an increase in the price of steaks and the lifting of May specials on two items. Lamb prices also rose this month accounting for the 4.5 per cent increase. The 0.6 decrease in the pork section is due to a decrease in the price of sausage and to a number of June specials. A June special in the poultry section accounts for the 2.7 per cent decrease.

Between June 5, 1980 and June 4, 1981, the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 11.8 per cent. Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	May 8/80 to May 7/81 % Change	Jun.5/80 to Jun.4/81 % Change	May 7/81 to Jun.4/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	19.1	16.7	0.4
Cereals and Bread	7	27.6	23.0	-0.5
Beverages	5	6.1	-2.8	-3.5
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	12.0	7.9	-0.5
Canned Vegetables	4	18.3	15.3	2.3
Canned Juices	4	20.9	10.6	-4.1
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	21.1	21.9	10.9
Dry Groceries	7	15.2	2.3	-3.7
Oils and Fats	4	5.8	2.7	-0.7
Jams and Syrups	3	17.1	17.1	0.0
Other Groceries	6	32.0	27.9	0.1
Meats				
Beef	6	5.2	9.8	2.7
Lamb (frozen)	1	13.1	9.3	4.5
Pork	5	25.8	17.7	-0.6
Poultry	3	34.3	15.4	-2.7
Total	72	16.7	11.8	0.1

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Table 1a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for Northwestern Ontario Centres*

Community	Total	Dairy		Cereals		Beverages		Canned Fruits & Vegetables		Fresh Fruit & Veg.		Dry**** Groceries		Oils & Syrups		Jams & Groceries		Beef		Lamb		Pork		Poultry		Meat	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MAY 7, 1981 to JUNE 4, 1981**																											
Toronto	0.1	0.4	-0.5	-3.5	-1.9	10.9	-3.7	-0.7	0.0	0.1	2.7	4.5	-0.6	-2.7	0.9												
Atikokan	2.5	0.5	1.8	3.5	-1.6	12.8	4.0	-2.8	2.2	2.2	2.7	0.0	1.6	-1.2	1.6												
Dryden	2.2	0.7	1.2	0.9	-1.2	10.1	3.5	2.6	0.0	1.9	0.3	4.8	1.8	6.7	2.1												
Fort Frances***	-4.2	2.0	5.7	1.0	2.2	-8.6	3.3	6.1	9.8	10.3	-32.3	0.0	-15.4	-31.3	-24.3												
Geraldton	1.5	2.1	2.0	0.4	1.7	0.5	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.5	-2.9	-0.4	2.5	1.1												
Ignace	3.0	0.3	0.2	1.2	3.7	16.6	7.3	-0.4	0.2	9.8	-3.0	0.0	1.4	4.4	-0.3												
Kenora	0.9	2.2	1.3	-0.7	-0.1	8.3	-0.8	0.4	0.0	4.1	-2.7	0.0	-0.5	2.3	-1.0												
Marathon	3.0	3.3	7.8	0.1	-2.7	11.2	1.8	-1.1	0.2	-4.2	1.2	9.8	9.7	9.7	5.7												
Rainy River	1.0	1.7	-0.5	-1.0	1.3	5.6	2.0	0.8	-2.0	3.1	-1.1	5.9	-0.1	0.4	0.0												
Red Lake	2.8	2.1	3.3	-0.5	1.2	5.0	1.6	2.1	0.4	6.3	4.3	6.2	1.7	9.5	4.3												
Sioux Lookout	4.3	1.8	1.8	3.4	2.0	19.6	6.0	2.3	4.5	2.3	1.2	8.9	3.0	4.6	2.9												
Thunder Bay	0.7	0.1	1.5	0.3	2.7	12.3	-4.6	1.1	-0.4	1.8	-0.8	9.3	-1.8	-8.3	-1.6												
JUNE 5, 1980 to JUNE 4, 1981																											
Toronto	11.8	16.7	23.0	-2.8	11.1	21.9	2.3	2.7	17.1	27.9	9.8	9.3	17.7	15.4	13.0												
Atikokan	11.9	21.3	17.8	0.8	10.4	22.9	9.1	-0.6	21.3	28.9	6.9	0.5	6.0	22.8	8.2												
Dryden	13.6	15.3	25.5	-1.3	10.2	20.8	11.3	3.0	17.6	28.5	4.0	24.2	23.5	31.4	15.3												
Fort Frances	4.0	20.6	39.8	-0.6	8.3	7.8	16.8	10.3	4.9	33.3	-39.7	1.6	-1.3	-30.1	-24.5												
Geraldton	13.1	20.6	22.9	-0.3	10.4	18.4	15.3	2.4	23.7	31.6	7.7	13.2	6.4	18.3	8.9												
Ignace	12.6	16.3	23.7	6.7	13.8	6.9	10.2	1.0	13.1	33.6	3.0	21.0	10.4	37.9	10.9												
Kenora	11.4	16.5	23.3	-2.7	10.7	6.6	9.9	1.1	14.6	33.2	2.9	18.8	21.2	20.7	12.3												
Marathon	11.4	21.5	24.5	1.7	7.0	15.7	9.8	-0.8	13.5	20.3	0.8	27.4	20.6	5.9	9.5												
Rainy River	12.0	16.8	22.5	2.2	12.7	26.5	11.5	0.7	14.6	31.7	-0.8	23.4	11.6	5.9	5.4												
Red Lake	13.1	21.7	28.6	3.7	13.2	25.8	9.7	5.6	20.4	30.9	-5.1	7.7	13.6	17.9	4.5												
Sioux Lookout	14.3	15.0	28.0	1.2	15.5	27.3	17.5	17.1	18.2	25.7	-1.8	29.4	12.1	19.1	7.4												
Thunder Bay	12.2	17.3	27.1	-1.8	15.9	19.2	3.6	3.7	16.5	27.9	4.5	26.3	15.7	13.0	10.6												

NOTE: * A similar breakdown for Northeastern Ontario communities will appear in the next issue of the Food Price Monitoring Program Report. Southern Ontario centres were similarly depicted in last month's report.

** Please be reminded that price changes take account of specials for this month and for the comparison periods. The effect of the specials will be greater in the smaller categories of food items.

*** Specials this month on most meat items in Fort Frances account for the large per cent decreases for the month and for the year.

**** Generally lower sugar prices this month have affected the dry groceries category.

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Eggs 1 doz.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Instant 10 oz.	Tomatoes 19 oz.	Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.	Sugar 1 kg.	Steak 1 lb.	Chicken 1 lb.
Toronto	1.97	1.25	3.57S	6.12S	.76	1.15S	.51	1.99	3.98	1.33S
S. ONTARIO										
Hamilton	1.96	1.25	3.57S	6.59S	.90	1.17S	.49	1.99	3.61S	1.23S
London	2.00	1.25	3.87	6.12S	.85	1.15S	.49	1.99	3.68S	1.30S
Ottawa	1.89	1.31	3.80S	6.11S	.83	1.18	.47	1.79	3.34S	1.52
Peterborough	1.95	1.26	3.61S	6.35S	.84	1.23	.42S	1.99	3.98	1.23S
Windsor	1.97	1.25	3.65S	6.11S	.84	1.15S	.49	2.14S	3.61S	1.31
Kingston	1.97	1.21	3.96	6.59	.90	1.23	.49	1.99	3.91	1.43
Owen Sound	1.97	1.25	3.61S	6.55S	.85	1.23	.46S	1.75S	3.98	1.27S
N.W. ONTARIO										
Atikokan	2.12	1.42	4.18	7.14	1.00	1.16S	.62	2.31	4.29	1.47
Dryden	1.96	1.29	4.19	6.53	.81S	1.56	.59	2.20	3.89S	1.51
Fort Frances	1.99	1.17	4.27	4.95S	.89	.99S	.34S	3.05	2.28S	.99S
Geraldton	2.01S	1.36S	4.09	6.61	.89	1.21S	.64	2.23	3.99	1.32
Ignace	2.02	1.27	3.70	7.04	.99	1.56	.59	2.07	4.02	1.64
Kenora	1.95	1.21	4.06	5.78S	.87	1.53	.56	2.07	4.03	1.77
Marathon	2.09	1.47	4.33	7.59	.87	1.34S	.74	2.24	4.09	1.29S
Rainy River	2.14	1.42	4.18	7.37	.81	1.49	.55	2.24	3.94	1.42
Red Lake	2.07	1.36	4.15	7.29	.87	1.45	.55	2.22	4.15	1.57
Sioux Lookout	1.99	1.47	4.25	7.06	.80S	1.32	.64	2.19	4.09	1.25S
Thunder Bay	1.94	1.30	3.99	6.35	.77	1.35	.59	1.99	4.09	1.28S
N.E. ONTARIO										
Blind River	1.99	1.34	3.91	6.79	.91	1.25	.55	2.49	2.88S	1.49
Chapleau	1.98	1.32	3.77	6.69	.79S	1.25	.62	2.53	2.93S	1.42
Cochrane	1.97	1.38	3.85	6.89	.82	1.27	.60	1.89	3.88	1.34
Elliot Lake	1.96	1.26	3.64S	5.63S	.85	1.26	.49S	2.14S	3.43S	1.18S
Espanola	1.86S	1.26	3.97	6.62S	.81	1.22	.50	2.29	3.88	1.46
Hearst	2.03	1.43	3.98	6.72	.89	1.28	.41	1.95	3.93	1.23
Iroquois Falls	1.95	1.30	3.93	7.13	.85	1.25	.57	1.97	3.83	1.49
Kapuskasing	1.82S	1.39	3.88	6.94	.84	1.24	.53S	1.99	3.88	1.40
Kirkland Lake	1.98	1.23	3.71S	6.82S	.82	1.26	.43S	1.92	3.60S	1.20S
Manitoulin Island	2.06	1.42	4.09	7.18S	.87	1.31	.54	1.90S	4.39	1.33
Moosonee	2.26	1.69	4.02	7.84	.88	1.40	.77	2.34	4.01	1.35
New Liskeard	1.96	1.28	3.64S	6.69	.85	1.26	.57	1.99	3.43S	1.36
North Bay	1.97	1.25	3.62S	6.69S	.91	1.26	.49	1.99	3.43S	1.12S
Sault Ste. Marie	1.98	1.17S	4.14	6.54S	.84S	1.26	.51S	1.99	3.08S	1.17S
Sturgeon Falls	1.83S	1.25	3.64S	6.54	.82	1.25	.49S	2.14	3.88	1.17S
Sudbury	1.72S	1.25	3.71S	6.59	.87	1.15S	.49	1.99	3.71S	1.33S
Timmins	1.87S	1.27	3.75S	6.08S	.84	1.26	.47S	1.99	3.55S	1.31S
Wawa	1.95	1.38	4.09	7.29	.88	1.24	.57	1.83	4.28	1.37

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

*In some communities only 2 stores are monitored and the price reflects a 2-store average.

S = Special sale

Note: All sizes and product brands are consistent for all locations.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which make up the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in all cases since they are not represented in each community. The same stores are monitored in each community every month, however, to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On June 4, 1981 the total price of the 72 monitored items was lower than Toronto in six of the seven southern Ontario communities monitored. Two communities - Peterborough and Windsor - were between 2.1 and 2.8 per cent lower.

Northwestern Ontario

As of June 4, 1981, price spreads between Toronto and two of the eleven communities monitored were lower than they were on June 5, 1980.

Northeastern Ontario

Price spreads between Toronto and eight of the eighteen communities have improved since June 5, 1980. Since May 7, 1981 the price spreads have improved for six of the eighteen communities. Four of the communities - New Liskeard, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury - registered lower prices than Toronto this month.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	June 5/80 % Difference from Toronto	May 7/81 % Difference from Toronto	June 4/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-1.6	-0.8	-1.6
Kingston	-0.2	-1.0	1.3
London	-1.5	-1.0	-1.2
Ottawa	-2.2	-2.1	-1.7
Owen Sound	-1.8	-1.4	-1.1
Peterborough	-2.4	-2.0	-2.1
Windsor	-1.0	-4.4	-2.8
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.8	5.5	7.9
Dryden	4.8	4.3	6.4
Fort Frances	2.7	-1.2	4.5
Geraldton	3.2	3.0	4.4
Ignace	5.0	2.7	5.7
Kenora	3.7	2.5	3.3
Marathon	7.4	4.0	7.0
Rainy River	5.0	4.3	5.2
Red Lake	5.1	3.4	6.1
Sioux Lookout	5.8	2.9	7.2
Thunder Bay	2.0	1.7	2.3
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	1.6	1.2	2.9
Chapleau	6.5	0.5	0.9
Cochrane	1.8	-0.6	0.4
Elliot Lake	2.2	1.2	0.6
Espanola	1.0	-0.1	0.4
Hearst	3.5	3.3	4.8
Iroquois Falls	1.1	0.6	2.5
Kapuskasing	1.9	1.2	2.4
Kirkland Lake	-0.1	0.8	1.6
Manitoulin Island	1.1	4.0	3.5
Moosonee	9.3	8.5	9.7
New Liskeard	1.4	-0.3	-0.8
North Bay	0.1	-0.6	-1.0
Sault Ste. Marie	-0.4	0.9	-0.6
Sturgeon Falls	0.2	0.7	0.8
Sudbury	-1.5	-1.0	-0.2
Timmins	1.7	1.7	0.8
Wawa	1.0	3.1	5.8

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS FOR ALL CENTRES

Total prices in nine of the 37 communities monitored have decreased between May 7, 1981 and June 4, 1981. The price decreases ranged from 0.2 per cent in North Bay and London to 4.2 per cent in Fort Frances.

Total prices in Peterborough remained unchanged from the previous month.

Twenty-seven communities experienced increases between May 7, 1981 and June 4, 1981. These price increases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Toronto to 4.3 per cent in Sioux Lookout.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Mar.5/81 to Apr.2/81 % Difference	Apr.2/81 to May 7/81 % Difference	May 7/81 to June 4/81 % Difference
Toronto	1.8	1.1	0.1
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.3	2.0	-0.7
Kingston	0.6	0.5	2.4
London	2.2	0.6	-0.2
Ottawa	0.9	-0.5	0.6
Owen Sound	0.5	1.3	0.5
Peterborough	-0.3	1.1	0.0
Windsor	2.7	-2.0	1.8
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-0.1	0.7	2.5
Dryden	1.4	2.4	2.2
Fort Frances	-0.7	-0.5	-4.2
Geraldton	1.1	0.8	1.5
Ignace	3.3	-0.9	3.0
Kenora	0.6	1.2	0.9
Marathon	-1.8	3.5	3.0
Rainy River	0.9	0.9	1.0
Red Lake	0.0	-0.1	2.8
Sioux Lookout	-0.5	1.4	4.3
Thunder Bay	0.6	2.4	0.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	1.6	0.6	1.7
Chapleau	2.2	0.2	0.6
Cochrane	1.8	0.1	1.2
Elliot Lake	0.9	0.3	-0.4
Espanola	0.9	0.6	0.6
Hearst	-0.6	-0.3	1.6
Iroquois Falls	1.9	1.3	2.0
Kapuskasing	-0.2	2.4	1.3
Kirkland Lake	-1.7	2.7	0.9
Manitoulin Island	-1.0	1.4	-0.4
Moosonee	-1.6	0.3	1.2
New Liskeard	2.1	0.4	-0.3
North Bay	0.7	0.6	-0.2
Sault Ste. Marie	2.7	0.4	-1.3
Sturgeon Falls	0.0	2.0	0.2
Sudbury	2.2	0.0	0.9
Timmins	0.4	1.6	-0.8
Wawa	0.3	1.5	2.8

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 4: - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	June 5/80	June 4/81	% Change	June 5/80	June 4/81	% Change
Calf. Carrots						
2 lbs.)	.29	.58	100.0	.78	1.18	51.3
celery (stalk)	.63	.79	25.4	.88	1.22	38.6
/U.S. Cucumbers (each)	.45	.20	-55.6	.92	.55	-40.2
Lettuce (head)	.48	.58	20.8	.91	.81	11.0
Mushrooms (1 lb.)	1.25	1.40	12.0	1.98	2.09	5.6
Cooking Onions						
2 lbs)	.44	.77	75.0	.85	1.38	62.4
I. Potatos (10 lbs.)	.85	2.20	158.8	1.28	2.98	132.8
Spinach (10 oz.)	.60	.56	-6.7	.81	.91	12.3
Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.35	.45	28.6	1.17	.99	15.4
Green Beans (1 lb.)	.55	.38	30.9	1.12	.95	15.2

Specials are included in the three-store average

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.


The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

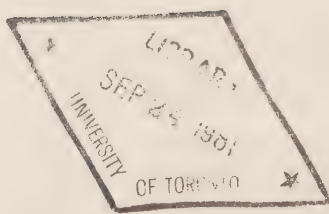
The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA2ΦN
CC
-F56

Report #27

 Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



July 1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICES	12

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: June 5, 1980 to June 4, 1981 July 3, 1980 to July 2, 1981 June 4, 1981 to July 2, 1981	2
1a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for Northeastern Ontario centres: June 4, 1981 to July 2, 1981 July 3, 1980 to July 2, 1981	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, July 3, 1980, June 4, 1981 and July 2, 1981	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	7

INDEX TO CHARTS

<u>Chart</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Beans, Green (1 lb.)	8
2. Broccoli (bunch)	8
3. Celery (each)	8
4. Carrots (2 lbs.)	9
5. Cucumber (each)	9
6. Lettuce (each)	9
7. Onions (2 lbs.)	10
8. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	10
9. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	10
10. Spinach (10 oz.)	11

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 1.0 per cent between June 4, 1981 and July 2, 1981.

The 1.2 per cent decrease in the dairy and eggs category is due to a July special on cheese. The price of the other items in this category remained constant.

Increases in the price of cereal and oats, and the lifting of a special on flour account for the 4.3 per cent increase in the cereals and bread category.

The 2.7 per cent increase in the beverages category is due to the lifting of a number of June specials.

The lifting of June specials are responsible for the increases in the canned fruit and canned juices categories. An increase in the price of canned tomatoes in addition to the lifting of June specials accounts for the increase in the canned vegetables category.

July specials on cabbage and lettuce, and decreases in the prices of bananas, tomatoes and turnips account for most of the 6.2 per cent decrease in the fresh fruits and vegetables category.

The 7.5 per cent increase in the pork category is due to the lifting of June specials and increases in the price of bacon and sausage. The 4.4 per cent decrease in the poultry category is due to July specials.

Between July 3, 1980 and July 2, 1981, the total price of the food items monitored in Toronto rose by 14.8 per cent. Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	Jun.5/80 to Jun.4/81 % Change	July 3/80 to July 2/81 % Change	Jun.4/81 to July 2/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	16.7	14.4	-1.2
Cereals and Bread	7	23.0	27.9	4.3
Beverages	5	-2.8	1.4	2.7
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	7.9	10.8	4.9
Canned Vegetables	4	15.3	19.4	4.6
Canned Juices	4	10.6	13.2	2.3
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	21.9	28.1	-6.2
Dry Groceries	7	2.3	8.0	1.9
Oils and Fats	4	2.7	10.1	1.1
Jams and Syrups	3	17.1	20.9	0.6
Other Groceries	6	27.9	28.1	0.0
Meats				
Beef	6	9.8	11.9	-0.6
Lamb (frozen)	1	9.3	9.2	1.7
Pork	5	17.7	23.5	7.5
Poultry	3	15.4	10.2	-4.4
Total	72	11.8	14.8	1.0

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Table 1a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for Northeastern Ontario Centres

Community	Total	Dairy & Eggs %	Cereals & Bread %	Beverages %	Canned Fruits & Vegetables & Juices %	Fresh Fruit & Veg. %	Dry Groceries %	Oils & Fats %	Jams & Syrups %	Other Groceries %	Beef %	Lamb %	Pork %	Poultry %	Meat %
JUNE 4, 1981 to JULY 2, 1981 *															
Toronto	1.0	-1.2	4.3	2.7	3.4	-6.2	1.9	1.1	0.6	0.0	-0.6	1.7	7.5	-4.4	1.6
Blind River	3.6	0.0	3.5	10.1	-0.3	-2.5	-11.9	9.4	0.2	1.8	18.7	18.3	4.5	10.7	11.9
Chapleau	2.6	0.7	3.0	-0.8	2.2	11.0	2.5	1.9	0.0	5.9	12.6	0.4	-6.0	-13.3	1.5
Cochrane	1.6	1.4	0.9	7.1	2.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	1.8	0.4	-2.4	0.0	4.2	1.4	0.5
Elliot Lake	0.8	1.7	4.5	-7.3	-0.1	-6.1	6.9	1.1	-2.5	-2.4	9.3	-4.0	-0.7	8.1	4.7
Espanola	1.8	-0.3	-0.1	2.5	0.8	6.3	1.9	0.7	0.6	5.4	-2.1	0.0	6.0	1.8	1.3
Hearst	2.4	3.0	2.1	1.4	3.0	8.6	4.2	0.7	-1.6	-5.1	3.7	4.0	4.1	2.0	3.6
Iroquois Falls	1.3	-1.0	1.4	4.0	0.5	4.3	6.6	0.0	5.7	-1.3	-2.7	0.0	1.8	-7.0	-1.5
Kapuskasing	-0.8	0.9	2.8	-9.4	-4.0	-9.7	7.0	-1.1	0.0	2.6	2.4	0.0	-1.4	8.3	1.8
Kirkland Lake	0.2	-0.7	0.2	-7.3	1.6	3.3	-0.1	1.0	0.0	1.9	-1.2	1.8	-0.4	8.1	0.5
Manitoulin Island	3.0	2.1	2.4	3.3	3.6	5.9	3.8	1.2	0.0	4.8	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6
Moosonee	2.4	0.6	4.7	0.3	2.2	1.7	-4.1	2.0	3.0	1.4	-0.6	0.8	13.7	20.7	6.6
New Liskeard	1.9	-1.2	5.3	2.1	-0.1	9.0	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.1	-0.4	0.0	2.2	2.1	0.9
North Bay	4.0	1.6	4.7	4.4	1.0	4.6	4.9	-0.1	0.6	-1.0	11.7	7.0	4.9	3.3	7.9
Sault Ste. Marie	2.2	2.3	-3.5	0.8	-1.7	-4.6	5.9	-6.4	0.6	5.0	25.4	-11.2	-3.9	1.7	8.9
Sturgeon Falls	0.2	3.4	2.4	-5.9	0.7	-3.2	4.8	0.0	0.6	6.9	-1.4	-2.5	-3.6	6.3	-1.2
Sudbury	0.6	-1.9	5.0	-3.5	3.9	-1.6	1.9	-1.1	0.0	2.3	3.8	-1.7	-1.3	3.3	1.7
Timmins	3.0	0.2	1.7	2.0	-0.3	6.7	4.8	2.1	0.0	-0.7	10.9	2.7	3.8	-4.4	5.8
Wawa	-0.5	-1.7	-1.9	0.9	-2.8	-4.0	-0.2	0.8	4.3	0.9	-1.2	-7.4	-0.4	10.7	0.0
JULY 3, 1980 to JULY 2, 1981															
Toronto	14.8	14.4	27.9	1.4	14.0	28.1	8.0	10.1	20.9	28.1	11.9	9.2	23.5	10.2	15.2
Blind River	17.2	14.5	26.5	7.2	11.0	30.5	18.9	1.1	32.6	34.1	3.4	17.8	33.7	25.0	17.0
Chapleau	12.5	8.8	19.9	10.7	7.5	49.2	14.2	-4.0	5.1	27.5	12.7	14.2	-0.9	2.2	6.9
Cochrane	12.4	14.2	25.1	2.2	12.0	15.6	5.2	1.6	15.0	32.1	10.7	11.2	14.7	20.7	13.4
Elliot Lake	11.1	12.5	26.4	-10.9	13.2	18.2	17.6	3.7	17.0	27.1	6.5	33.7	10.4	24.5	11.5
Espanola	15.2	13.1	27.5	-0.7	15.2	50.5	14.9	5.2	20.8	37.7	6.5	4.1	19.0	10.2	10.9
Hearst	13.9	13.9	25.5	-1.7	7.4	68.5	12.2	3.9	17.4	23.2	10.8	25.8	34.1	6.3	18.3
Iroquois Falls	16.3	13.2	24.1	3.2	17.3	41.5	13.3	2.6	24.8	32.7	11.9	27.1	28.6	10.9	18.3
Kapuskasing	13.1	21.6	28.0	-2.4	10.0	11.5	10.4	4.1	22.2	29.8	9.6	26.3	8.8	27.5	12.6
Kirkland Lake	14.1	14.7	22.9	-0.6	16.0	45.8	10.8	2.0	20.6	29.7	4.3	-2.5	19.8	21.4	10.9
Manitoulin Island	15.9	14.3	30.8	10.3	21.8	35.5	8.5	10.1	22.6	31.2	-8.8	0.0	8.7	16.1	9.0
Moosonee	13.0	11.5	27.2	2.2	20.2	38.6	3.5	2.8	14.8	25.8	-4.8	34.2	29.8	18.1	10.5
New Liskeard	14.1	13.4	27.0	3.3	9.2	41.8	8.6	2.3	23.2	35.7	-0.1	2.2	21.2	26.5	10.3
North Bay	17.7	14.8	29.2	9.7	18.2	36.6	17.8	2.7	24.5	29.6	10.6	15.2	16.6	29.9	15.2
Sault Ste. Marie	15.1	19.6	20.6	6.9	13.5	26.5	12.3	-0.9	22.0	36.1	11.0	-27.5	19.9	26.3	12.8
Sturgeon Falls	13.8	20.3	27.7	-3.0	14.7	44.1	10.3	-3.9	21.0	31.1	9.1	9.4	8.1	17.0	9.9
Sudbury	15.2	10.5	29.2	2.1	14.2	28.8	13.0	4.9	20.9	28.9	12.0	29.3	17.4	23.1	16.3
Timmins	15.3	17.5	25.5	2.7	11.9	37.0	9.1	9.6	17.5	28.0	9.0	10.1	24.6	13.2	14.3
Wawa	16.4	14.8	23.3	7.9	7.4	25.1	10.6	7.1	19.1	30.4	14.8	15.3	35.6	17.5	21.4

Note: * Please be reminded that the price changes take account of specials for this month and for the comparison periods. The effect of the specials will be greater in the smaller categories of food items.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO
AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which make up the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in all cases since they are not represented in each community. The same stores are monitored in each community every month, however, to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On July 2, 1981 the total price of the 72 food items was lower than Toronto in six of the seven southern Ontario communities monitored.

Northwestern Ontario

Between June 4, 1981 and July 2, 1981, price spreads between Toronto and six of the 11 communities monitored have improved. Since July 3, 1980 price spreads have improved for nine of the northwestern Ontario communities monitored.

Northeastern Ontario

Since June 4, 1981 price spreads have improved for six of the 18 northeastern Ontario communities monitored. Price spreads have improved for eight communities since July 3, 1980.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

	July 3/80	June 4/81	July 2/81
Community	% Difference from Toronto	% Difference from Toronto	% Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.4	-1.6	-1.6
Kingston	1.9	1.3	-1.1
London	0.4	-1.2	-0.6
Ottawa	-3.1	-1.7	-0.9
Owen Sound	-0.7	-1.1	-1.4
Peterborough	-1.6	-2.1	0.2
Windsor	-0.9	-2.8	-1.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	9.1	7.9	7.3
Dryden	6.2	6.4	5.8
Fort Frances	3.9	4.5	-2.2
Geraldton	4.0	4.4	4.7
Ignace	6.3	5.7	4.3
Kenora	4.7	3.3	4.5
Marathon	7.4	7.0	5.5
Rainy River	7.2	5.2	5.3
Red Lake	6.9	6.1	7.9
Sioux Lookout	7.2	7.2	7.0
Thunder Bay	3.6	2.3	3.5
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.7	2.9	5.5
Chapleau	4.4	0.9	2.5
Cochrane	3.0	0.4	1.0
Elliot Lake	3.7	0.6	0.4
Espanola	0.8	0.4	1.2
Hearst	5.4	4.8	6.3
Iroquois Falls	1.6	2.5	2.8
Kapuskasing	2.1	2.4	0.6
Kirkland Lake	1.6	1.6	0.9
Manitoulin Island	4.8	3.5	5.6
Moosonee	13.1	9.7	11.2
New Liskeard	0.8	-0.8	0.2
North Bay	-0.5	-1.0	2.0
Sault Ste. Marie	0.3	-0.6	0.7
Sturgeon Falls	0.8	0.8	0.0
Sudbury	-0.9	-0.2	-0.5
Timmins	2.5	0.8	2.9
Wawa	2.8	5.8	4.2

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS FOR ALL CENTRES

Total prices in five of the 37 communities monitored have decreased between June 4, 1981 and July 2, 1981. The price decreases range from 0.4 per cent in Marathon and Ignace to 1.4 per cent in Kingston.

Thirty-two communities experienced increases between June 4, 1981 and July 2, 1981. These price increases range from 0.2 per cent in Sturgeon Falls and Kirkland Lake to 4.0 in North Bay.

Increases in the cost of cereals were common to most centres this month.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Apr.2/81 to May 7/81	May 7/81 to June 4/81	June 4/81 to July 2/81
	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	1.1	0.1	1.0
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	2.0	-0.7	0.9
Kingston	0.5	2.4	-1.4
London	0.6	-0.2	1.7
Ottawa	-0.5	0.6	1.8
Owen Sound	1.3	0.5	0.6
Peterborough	1.1	0.0	3.3
Windsor	-2.0	1.8	2.3
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.7	2.5	0.4
Dryden	2.4	2.2	0.3
Fort Frances	-0.5	-4.2	3.4
Geraldton	0.8	1.5	1.2
Ignace	-0.9	3.0	-0.4
Kenora	1.2	0.9	2.1
Marathon	3.5	3.0	-0.4
Rainy River	0.9	1.0	1.1
Red Lake	-0.1	2.8	2.7
Sioux Lookout	1.4	4.3	0.8
Thunder Bay	2.4	0.7	2.2
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.6	1.7	3.6
Chapleau	0.2	0.6	2.6
Cochrane	0.1	1.2	1.6
Elliot Lake	0.3	-0.4	0.8
Espanola	0.6	0.6	1.8
Hearst	-0.3	1.6	2.4
Iroquois Falls	1.3	2.0	1.3
Kapuskasing	2.4	1.3	-0.8
Kirkland Lake	2.7	0.9	0.2
Manitoulin Island	1.4	-0.4	3.0
Moosonee	0.3	1.2	2.4
New Liskeard	0.4	-0.3	1.9
North Bay	0.6	-0.2	4.0
Sault Ste. Marie	0.4	-1.3	2.2
Sturgeon Falls	2.0	0.2	0.2
Sudbury	0.0	0.9	0.6
Timmins	1.6	-0.8	3.0
Wawa	1.5	2.8	-0.5

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Chart 1

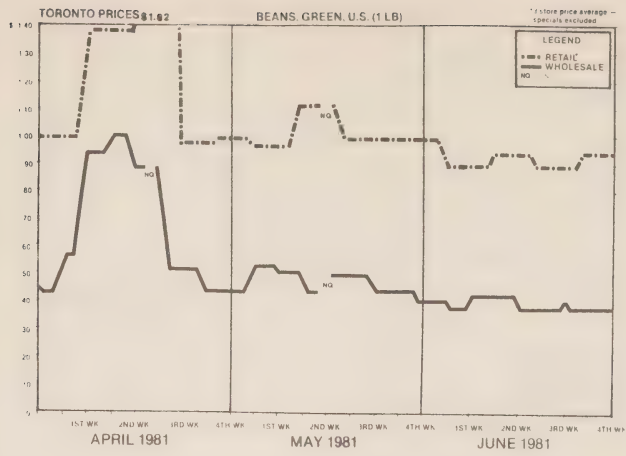


Chart 2

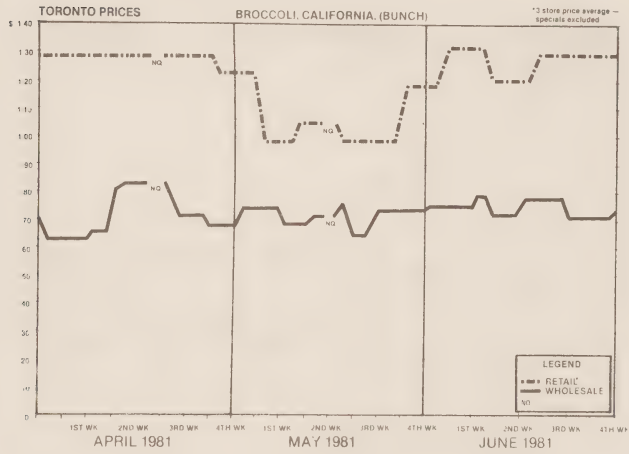


Chart 3

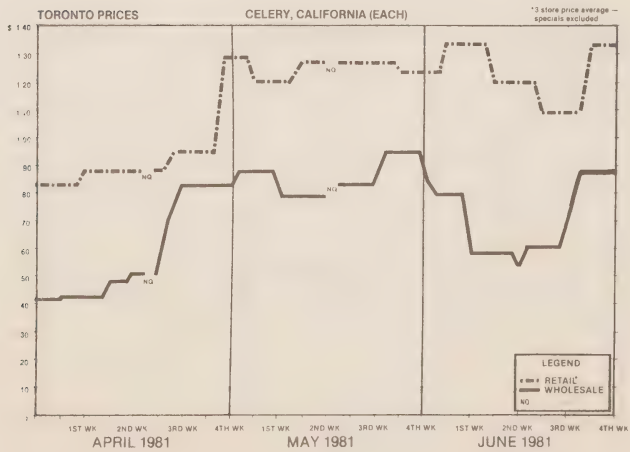


Chart 4

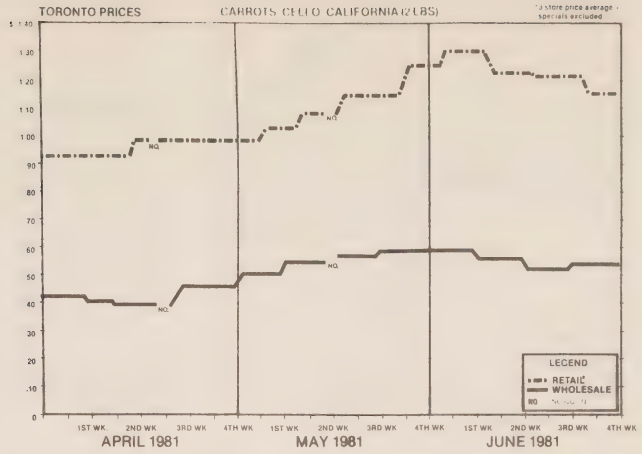


Chart 5

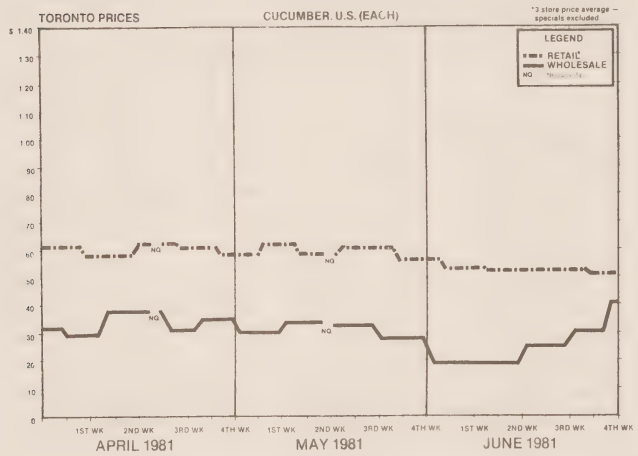


Chart 6

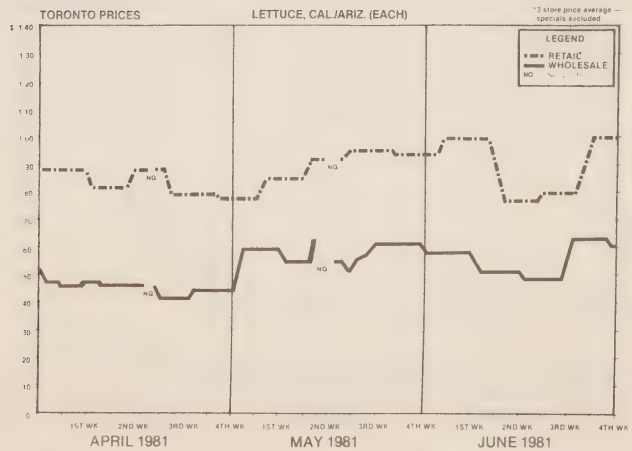


Chart 7

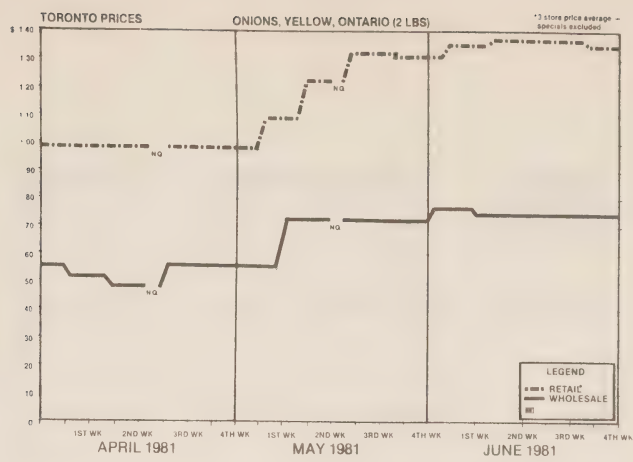


Chart 8

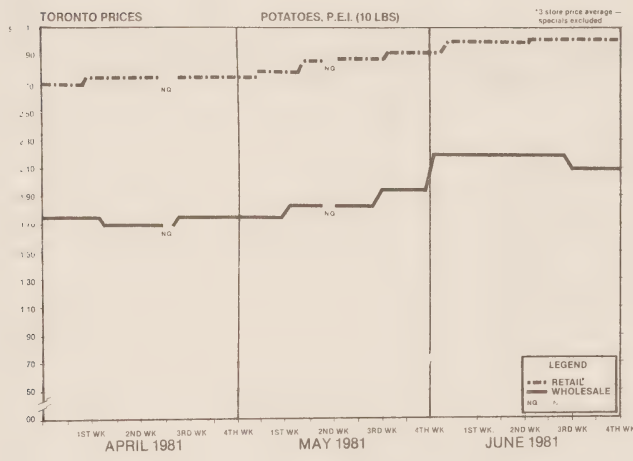
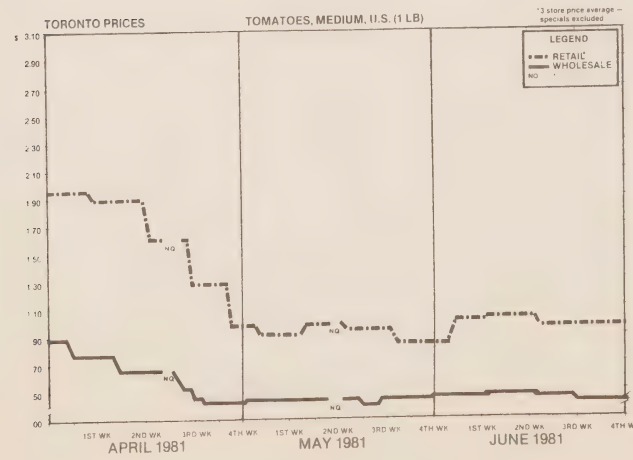


Chart 9



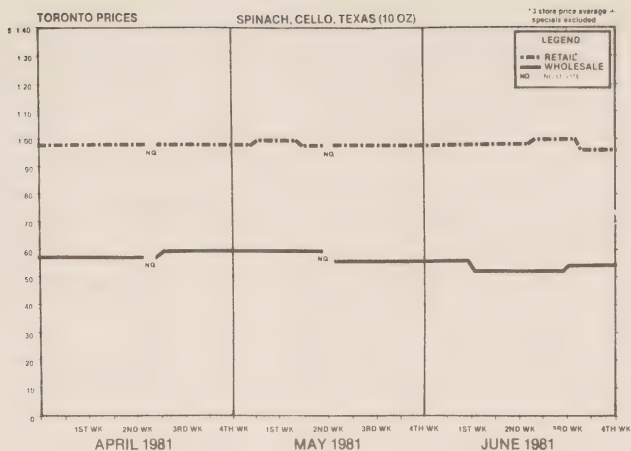


Chart 10

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA2ΦN
CC
-F 56

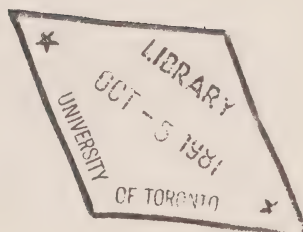
Report #28



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



August, 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #28

AUGUST 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

August 1981

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
APPENDICIES	8

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: July 3, 1980 to July 2, 1981 Aug. 7, 1980 to Aug. 6, 1981 July 2, 1981 to Aug. 6, 1981	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for '72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, Aug. 7, 1980, July 2, 1981 and August 6, 1981	4
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	6

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 0.9 per cent between July 2, 1981 and August 6, 1981.

The 2.1 per cent increase in the dairy and egg category is due to an increase in the price of butter and eggs, coupled with the lifting of a July special on cheese.

August specials on coffee beans and orange crystals account for the 2.8 per cent decrease in the beverages category.

There was a 2.8 per cent increase in the canned fruit category this month reflecting a 6.0 per cent increase in the price of pineapple.

The 3.1 per cent increase in the canned vegetable category can be traced to increases of 6.1 per cent in the price of peas and 4.8 per cent in the price of tomatoes.

The price of fresh tomatoes increased by 13.3 per cent this month. This increase and the lifting of July specials on cabbage, lettuce and spinach account for most of the 3.1 per cent increase in the fresh fruits and vegetables category.

The 1.8 per cent increase in the dry groceries category is due to the lifting of a special on rice.

The price of ketchup increased by 8.1 per cent this month and, coupled with the lifting of a special on beans, resulted in a 2.6 per cent increase in the other groceries category. The prices of other items in this category remained constant.

The 6.7 per cent increase in the price of lamb and the 1.0 per cent increase in the beef category were caused mainly by a return to June prices after a number of July specials.

The lifting of specials on chicken and turkey account for the 11.1 per cent increase in the poultry category.

August specials are responsible for decreases in the cereal and bread, oils and fats and pork categories.

Between August 7, 1980 and August 6, 1981, the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 12.4 per cent. Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	July 3/80 to July 2/81 % Change	Aug.7/80 to Aug.6/81 % Change	July 2/81 to Aug. 6/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	14.4	17.0	2.1
Cereals and Bread	7	27.9	21.3	-0.3
Beverages	5	1.4	-2.5	-2.8
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	10.8	13.9	2.8
Canned Vegetables	4	19.4	21.1	3.1
Canned Juices	4	13.2	5.3	-4.4
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	28.1*	23.8*	3.1
Dry Groceries	7	8.0	11.4	1.8
Oils and Fats	4	10.1	9.8	-1.5
Jams and Syrups	3	20.9	15.9	0.2
Other Groceries	6	28.1	30.5	2.6
Meats				
Beef	6	11.9	5.6	1.0
Lamb (frozen)	1	9.2	16.5	6.7
Pork	5	23.5	15.1	-0.3
Poultry	3	10.2	11.6	11.1
Total	72	14.8	12.4	0.9

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

*Percentage change does not include 3 items of fresh produce due to their unavailability in July and August, 1980.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which comprise the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in each community since each chain is not represented in all of them. The same stores are monitored in each community every month, however, to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On August 6, 1981 the total price of the 72 monitored items was lower than Toronto in five communities.

Northwestern Ontario

Since July 2, 1981 price spreads improved between Toronto and five of the eleven communities monitored. Price spreads improved in three communities since August 7, 1980.

Northeastern Ontario

Price spreads in eight of the 18 communities monitored in Northeastern Ontario improved between July 2, 1981 and August 6, 1981.

The 9.1 per cent price spread in Moosonee reflects a 1.0 per cent overall decrease in prices since July 2, 1981.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Aug. 7/80 % Difference from Toronto	July 2/81 % Difference from Toronto	Aug. 6/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.5	-1.6	-0.7
Kingston	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2
London	-0.3	-0.6	0.3
Ottawa	-1.5	-0.9	0.1
Owen Sound	-1.9	-1.4	-3.0
Peterborough	-0.6	0.2	-1.6
Windsor	-1.0	-1.6	-1.1
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	5.1	7.3	7.3
Dryden	5.2	5.8	6.3
Fort Frances	1.0	-2.2	2.1
Geraldton	3.1	4.7	5.2
Ignace	5.2	4.3	5.0
Kenora	2.3	4.5	4.1
Marathon	7.6	5.5	5.6
Rainy River	6.4	5.3	5.1
Red Lake	5.8	7.9	6.9
Sioux Lookout	4.6	7.0	6.6
Thunder Bay	2.2	3.5	2.9
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-0.2	5.5	4.3
Chapleau	6.8	2.5	2.3
Cochrane	3.5	1.0	2.0
Elliot Lake	1.4	0.4	3.3
Espanola	0.0	1.2	0.2
Hearst	4.5	6.3	6.3
Iroquois Falls	1.6	2.8	3.0
Kapuskasing	3.1	0.6	1.4
Kirkland Lake	0.8	0.9	1.4
Manitoulin Island	4.9	5.6	5.8
Moosonee	11.5	11.2	9.1
New Liskeard	1.8	0.2	2.2
North Bay	-0.5	2.0	-1.7
Sault Ste. Marie	1.4	0.7	0.3
Sturgeon Falls	1.1	0.0	1.6
Sudbury	0.2	-0.5	-0.7
Timmins	1.4	2.9	0.2
Wawa	4.0	4.2	5.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres

Total prices in seven of the 37 communities monitored have decreased between July 2, 1981 and August 6, 1981. The price decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Espanola to 2.9 per cent in North Bay.

Total price in Red Lake remained unchanged from the previous month.

Twenty-nine communities experienced total price increases between July 2, 1981 and August 6, 1981. These ranged from 0.3 per cent in Thunder Bay to 5.3 per cent in Fort Frances. The increase in Fort Frances is due largely to the lifting of July specials in most categories this month.

Some price increases were common to a number of centres this month. These include increases in the price of dry cereals, sliced pineapple and ketchup.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all centres are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

	May 7/81 to June 4/81	June 4/81 to July 2/81	July 2/81 to Aug. 6/81
Community	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	0.1	1.0	0.9
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.7	0.9	1.8
Kingston	2.4	-1.4	0.8
London	-0.2	1.7	1.8
Ottawa	0.6	1.8	2.0
Owen Sound	0.5	0.6	-0.7
Peterborough	0.0	3.3	-0.8
Windsor	1.8	2.3	1.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.5	0.4	1.0
Dryden	2.2	0.3	1.4
Fort Frances	-4.2	3.4	5.3
Geraldton	1.5	1.2	1.4
Ignace	3.0	-0.4	1.6
Kenora	0.9	2.1	0.6
Marathon	3.0	-0.4	1.0
Rainy River	1.0	1.1	0.7
Red Lake	2.8	2.7	0.0
Sioux Lookout	4.3	0.8	0.5
Thunder Bay	0.7	2.2	0.3
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	1.7	3.6	-0.3
Chapleau	0.6	2.6	0.7
Cochrane	1.2	1.6	1.9
Elliot Lake	-0.4	0.8	3.8
Espanola	0.6	1.8	-0.1
Hearst	1.6	2.4	0.9
Iroquois Falls	2.0	1.3	1.1
Kapuskasing	1.3	-0.8	1.7
Kirkland Lake	0.9	0.2	1.4
Manitoulin Island	-0.4	3.0	1.1
Moosonee	1.2	2.4	-1.0
New Liskeard	-0.3	1.9	2.9
North Bay	-0.2	4.0	-2.9
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.3	2.2	0.6
Sturgeon Falls	0.2	0.2	2.4
Sudbury	0.9	0.6	0.7
Timmins	-0.8	3.0	-1.7
Wawa	2.8	-0.5	2.4

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 4: - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	Aug. 6/80	Aug. 5/81	% Change	Aug. 6/80	Aug. 5/81	% Change
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	%
Carrots (2 lbs.)	.56	.56	0.0	.94	.98	4.3
Celery (ea.)	.36	.54	50.0	.62	.78	25.8
Cucumber (ea.)	.15	.13	-13.3	.31	.33	6.5
Lettuce (head)	.25	.47	88.0	.42	.68	61.9
Mushrooms (1 lb.)	1.25	1.50	20.0	1.96	2.19	11.7
Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.48	.65	35.4	.95	1.35	42.1
Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.50	1.75	16.7	2.18	2.65	21.6
Spinach (10 oz.)	.50	.58	16.0	.88	.98	11.4
Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.52	.55	5.8	.96	.82	-14.6
Green Beans (1 lb.)	.27	.38	40.7	.62	.69	11.3

*Specials are included in the three-store average

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices)	Other Groceries
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA24N
CC
-F 56

Report #29

4



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



September 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #29

September 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

September 1981

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
APPENDICIES	8

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: Aug. 7, 1980 to Aug. 6, 1981 Sept. 4, 1980 to Sept. 3, 1981 Aug. 6, 1981 to Sept. 3, 1981	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, Sept. 4, 1980, Aug. 6, 1981 and Sept. 3, 1981	4
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Months for All Centres	6
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables	7

N O T I C E

STARTING SEPTEMBER, THE FOOD PRICE MONITORING
WILL BE CONDUCTED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.
THE NEXT REPORT WILL, THEREFORE, BE
DECEMBER, 1981.

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total prices of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto decreased by 1.1 per cent between August 6, 1981 and September 3, 1981, despite increases in some food categories.

The 3.4 per cent increase in the dairy and egg category is due to an increase in the price of eggs and powdered milk.

September specials on green beans, corn and peas account for the 6.0 per cent decrease in the canned vegetables category.

The canned juices category increased by 13.8 per cent, reflecting a 7.8 per cent increase in the price of tomato juice and the lifting of August specials on apple juice and garden cocktail.

The price of fresh fruits and vegetables decreased substantially by 19.9 per cent as lower regular prices or specials were displayed on most vegetable items.

The 4.0 per cent increase in the jams and syrups category resulted from a 3.0 per cent increase in the price of strawberry jam coupled with a price increase and the lifting of an August special on corn syrup.

The 1.4 per cent increase in the other groceries category is due to a 5.9 per cent increase in the price of salmon.

Lower beef prices as well as specials account for the 4.6 per cent decrease in the beef category.

The lamb category decreased by 10.2 per cent due to September specials on lamb.

The lifting of August specials on pork and an increase in the price of turkey account for the 2.7 per cent increase in the pork category and the 4.0 per cent increase in the poultry category.

Between September 4, 1980 and September 3, 1981, the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 8.6 per cent. This figure reflects a price rise of 2.8 per cent between August 1980 and September 1980 combined with a price decrease of 1.1 per cent from August 1981 to September 1981.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	No. of Food Items	Aug.7/80 to Aug.6/81 % Change	Sept.4/80 to Sept.3/81 % Change	Aug.6/81 to Sept.3/81 % Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	17.0	19.0	3.4
Cereals and Bread	7	21.3	16.2	0.6
Beverages	5	-2.5	-1.9	-1.6
Canned Fruits and Vegetables				
Canned Fruits	2	13.9	14.8	1.8
Canned Vegetables	4	21.1	14.6	-6.0
Canned Juices	4	5.3	17.1	13.8
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	23.8*	4.1*	-19.9
Dry Groceries	7	11.4	2.0	0.2
Oils and Fats	4	9.8	6.4	1.0
Jams and Syrups	3	15.9	18.8	4.0
Other Groceries	6	30.5	29.9	1.4
Meats				
Beef	6	5.6	-2.9	-4.6
Lamb (frozen)	1	16.5	11.8	-10.2
Pork	5	15.1	5.7	2.7
Poultry	3	11.6	15.4	4.0
Total	72	12.4	8.6	-1.1

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

*Percentage change does not include 3 items of fresh produce due to their unavailability in August and September 1980.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a monthly basis in Toronto and 36 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which comprise the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in each community since each chain is not represented in all of them. The same stores are monitored in each community every month, however, to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On September 3, 1981 the total price of the 72 food items was lower than Toronto in six of the seven southern Ontario communities monitored.

Northwestern Ontario

Since August 6, 1981, price spreads improved between Toronto and three of the eleven communities monitored. Price spreads improved in one community since September 4, 1980.

Northeastern Ontario

Price spreads in eight of the 18 communities monitored in northeastern Ontario improved between August 6, 1981 and September 3, 1981. Price spreads improved in six communities since September 4, 1980.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto
and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Sept.4/80 % Difference from Toronto	Aug.6/81 % Difference from Toronto	Sept.3/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.1	-0.7	-0.9
Kingston	0.1	-1.2	1.0
London	-0.8	0.3	-0.2
Ottawa	-1.8	0.1	-0.5
Owen Sound	-2.2	-3.0	-1.0
Peterborough	-0.8	-1.6	-1.7
Windsor	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.0	7.3	9.1
Dryden	3.2	6.3	8.7
Fort Frances	3.3	2.1	2.0
Geraldton	1.5	5.2	3.2
Ignace	4.0	5.0	5.6
Kenora	1.5	4.1	6.4
Marathon	5.5	5.6	8.5
Rainy River	3.4	5.1	5.7
Red Lake	2.4	6.9	9.1
Sioux Lookout	4.3	6.6	7.6
Thunder Bay	0.9	2.9	1.2
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-1.1	4.3	5.0
Chapleau	5.4	2.3	0.8
Cochrane	-0.5	2.0	2.5
Elliot Lake	1.9	3.3	3.0
Espanola	0.0	0.2	0.7
Hearst	5.2	6.3	8.0
Iroquois Falls	-0.9	3.0	1.9
Kapuskasing	0.4	1.4	1.7
Kirkland Lake	1.4	1.4	-1.3
Manitoulin Island	2.2	5.8	6.7
Moosonee	9.5	9.1	10.6
New Liskeard	1.0	2.2	2.5
North Bay	-0.3	-1.7	-1.2
Sault Ste. Marie	1.9	0.3	-0.1
Sturgeon Falls	-0.1	1.6	1.1
Sudbury	-1.0	-0.7	-0.5
Timmins	2.7	0.2	1.0
Wawa	2.6	5.7	7.6

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Percentage Change in Price from Previous Months for All Centres

Total prices in 27 of the 37 communities monitored have decreased between August 6, 1981 and September 3, 1981. Price decreases ranged from 0.2 per cent in Sioux Lookout and Manitoulin Island to 2.9 per cent in Geraldton.

Several price decreases were common to most centres in September. Substantial price decreases in onions, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, cabbage and turnips were recorded, due largely to the seasonal increase of supplies.

The prices of beef, lamb, pork and poultry varied among the communities. However, price decreases were recorded especially in the beef and lamb categories, as items in these categories were promoted at lower prices.

Some price increases were also common to a number of centres this month. These include increases in the prices of canned fruits and vegetables.

The combined effect of these price changes is a decrease in total prices in many communities this month.

Percentage changes in prices from previous months for all communities are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	June 4/81 to July 2/81 % Difference	July 2/81 to Aug.6/81 % Difference	Aug.6/81 to Sept.3/81 % Difference
Toronto	1.0	0.9	-1.1
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.9	1.8	-1.2
Kingston	-1.4	0.8	1.1
London	1.7	1.8	-1.6
Ottawa	1.8	2.0	-1.7
Owen Sound	0.6	-0.7	1.0
Peterborough	3.3	-0.8	-1.3
Windsor	2.3	1.4	-1.2
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.4	1.0	0.5
Dryden	0.3	1.4	1.1
Fort Frances	3.4	5.3	-1.2
Geraldton	1.2	1.4	-2.9
Ignace	-0.4	1.6	-0.5
Kenora	2.1	0.6	1.1
Marathon	-0.4	1.0	1.6
Rainy River	1.1	0.7	-0.5
Red Lake	2.7	0.0	0.9
Sioux Lookout	0.8	0.5	-0.2
Thunder Bay	2.2	0.3	-2.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	3.6	-0.3	-0.4
Chapleau	2.6	0.7	-2.5
Cochrane	1.6	1.9	-0.6
Elliot Lake	0.8	3.8	-1.4
Espanola	1.8	-0.1	-0.6
Hearst	2.4	0.9	0.5
Iroquois Falls	1.3	1.1	-2.2
Kapuskasing	-0.8	1.7	-0.8
Kirkland Lake	0.2	1.4	-2.3
Manitoulin Island	3.0	1.1	-0.2
Moosonee	2.4	-1.0	0.3
New Liskeard	1.9	2.9	-0.8
North Bay	4.0	-2.9	-0.6
Sault Ste. Marie	2.2	0.6	-1.5
Sturgeon Falls	0.2	2.4	-1.5
Sudbury	0.6	0.7	-0.9
Timmins	3.0	-1.7	-0.3
Wawa	-0.5	2.4	0.7

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

4: - Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	Sept.5/80	Sept.3/81	% Change	Sept.5/80	Sept.3/81	% Change
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	%
ots (2 lbs.)	.25	.25	0.0	.63	.68	7.9
age (ea.)	.25	.23	-8.0	.41	.48	17.1
uce (head) ea.	.39	.50	28.2	.59	.91	54.2
rooms (1 lb.)	1.25	1.50	20.0	1.99	2.34	17.6
ing onions (2 lbs.)	.24	.24	0.0	.66	.78	18.2
atoes (10 lbs.)	1.10	1.30	18.2	1.85	1.88	1.6
ach (10 oz.)	.50	.58	16.0	.88	.98	11.4
atoes (1 lb.)	1.50	.50	-66.7	1.83	.63	-65.6
n Beans (1 lb.)	.22	.28	27.3	.50	.68	36.0
shes (bunch)	.21	.23	9.5	.28	.36	28.6

ials are included in the three-store average

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared monthly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day monthly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA24N
CC
-F56

Report #30



Food Price Monitoring Program



December 1981

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #30

DECEMBER 1981

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy and Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

December 1981

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
CHRISTMAS DINNER	7
APPENDICIES	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: Sept. 4, 1980 to Sept. 3, 1981 Dec. 4, 1980 to Dec. 3, 1981 Sept. 3, 1981 to Oct. 1, 1981 Oct. 1, 1981 to Nov. 6, 1981 Nov. 6, 1981 to Dec. 3, 1981	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, Dec. 4, 1980; Sept. 3, 1981 and Dec. 3, 1981	4
3. Percentage Change in Prices monthly from July 2, 1981 to Sept. 3, 1981 and quarterly from Sept. 3, 1981 to Dec. 3, 1981	6
4. Christmas Dinner Year to Year Comparison	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 1.4 per cent between September 3, 1981 and October 1, 1981. This increase was due mainly to the lifting of September specials.

The lifting of September specials account for increases of 4.7 per cent in the beverages category; 10.0 per cent in the canned vegetables category; 3.8 per cent in the beef category; 13.2 per cent in the lamb category and 2.5 per cent in the pork category.

The total price of the 72 items monitored decreased by 5.4 per cent between October 1, 1981 and November 6, 1981.

The 2.7 per cent rise in the lamb category is due to an increase in the price of lamb. Poultry category showed an increase of 1.4 per cent due to the lifting of an October special on turkey.

All other categories showed declines ranging from 0.4 per cent in the canned vegetables category to 10.6 per cent in the pork category.

Between November 6 and December 3 there was a further decline of 3.4 per cent in the total price of the 72 item monitored.

The cereal and bread category rose by 3.0 per cent due to increases in the price of shredded wheat and flour. The price of lamb increased by 7.2 per cent. The pork category increased by 3.3 per cent, reflecting price increases and the lifting of specials in this category.

The declines in prices observed between October 1 and November 6, and between November 6 and December 3, result from the competition among the major retail grocery chains. This "Food Price War" was launched in Toronto in late October, 1981.

Between December 4, 1980 and December 3, 1981 the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto declined by 1.5 per cent.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison					
		Sept.4/80 to Sept.3/81	Dec.4/80 to Dec.3/81	% Change	Sept.3/81 to Oct.1/81	Oct.1/81 to Nov.6/81	Nov.6/81 to Dec.3/81	% Change	% Change	% Change
		% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	19.0	5.4		-1.2	-5.1	-1.2			
Cereals and Bread	7	16.2	11.4		-0.2	-6.4	3.0			
Beverages	5	-1.9	-12.0		4.7	-5.3	-6.4			
Canned Fruits and Vegetables										
Canned Fruits	2	14.8	6.2		0.0	-4.4	-4.7			
Canned Vegetables	4	14.6	12.8		10.0	-0.4	-5.0			
Canned Juices	4	17.1	10.5		-2.3	-4.5	0.9			
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	4.1*	-2.6		-0.7	-5.1	-1.7			
Dry Groceries	7	2.0	-14.3		-0.4	-4.1	-11.1			
Oils and Fats	4	6.4	2.7		1.7	-1.1	-4.6			
Jams and Syrups	3	18.8	10.7		1.9	-1.5	-1.7			
Other Groceries	6	29.9	2.4		-0.4	-7.1	-6.8			
Meats										
Beef	6	-2.9	-14.7		3.8	-9.0	-5.4			
Lamb (frozen)	1	11.8	30.3		13.2	2.7	7.2			
Pork	5	5.7	1.5		2.5	-10.6	3.3			
Poultry	3	15.4	1.1		-3.8	1.4	-10.4			
Total	72	8.6	-1.5		1.4	-5.4	-3.4			

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

*Percentage change does not include 3 items of fresh produce due to their unavailability in August and September 1980.

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

The price of 72 food items are monitored on a quarterly basis in Toronto and 26 other communities in Ontario. A maximum of three stores, which comprise the largest share of the market, are monitored in each community. The same chains cannot be monitored in each community since each chain is not represented in all of them. The same stores are monitored in each community every month, however, to maintain consistency.

Southern Ontario

On December 3, 1981, the total price of the 72 food items was lower than Toronto in two of the seven Southern Ontario communities monitored. Price spreads improved in three other communities.

In Northwestern and Northeastern communities the price spreads widened. This is related to price reductions in Toronto, resulting from the price war.

A comparison with Toronto for all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto
and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Dec.4/80 % Difference from Toronto	Sept.3/81 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 3/81 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-2.6	-0.9	-0.7
Kingston	2.0	1.0	2.7
London	-1.1	-0.2	0.0
Ottawa	-1.1	-0.5	4.7
Owen Sound	-0.9	-1.0	0.6
Peterborough	-0.5	-1.7	-0.2
Windsor	-0.1	-1.2	1.8
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	5.8	9.1	17.4
Dryden	4.5	8.7	11.6
Fort Frances	1.3	2.0	14.6
Geraldton	4.4	3.2	14.1
Ignace	4.2	5.6	12.4
Kenora	3.4	6.4	10.3
Marathon	4.2	8.5	16.4
Rainy River	6.3	5.7	11.9
Red Lake	6.1	9.1	15.5
Sioux Lookout	6.2	7.6	16.0
Thunder Bay	2.5	1.2	9.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.0	5.0	13.7
Chapleau	3.5	0.8	12.5
Cochrane	0.9	2.5	12.3
Elliot Lake	2.5	3.0	9.0
Espanola	1.0	0.7	8.3
Hearst	6.0	8.0	14.9
Iroquois Falls	2.3	1.9	9.9
Kapuskasing	2.2	1.7	10.1
Kirkland Lake	2.9	-1.3	9.2
Manitoulin Island	5.6	6.7	12.2
Mosoness	10.6	10.6	24.5
New Liskeard	0.4	2.5	9.8
North Bay	-0.2	-1.2	4.7
Sault Ste. Marie	0.0	-0.1	7.8
Sturgeon Falls	1.2	1.1	5.2
Sudbury	-1.9	-0.5	0.3
Timmins	2.0	1.0	9.3
Wawa	3.9	7.6	14.0

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Percentage Change in Price from Previous Months for All Centres

Total prices in 25 of the 37 communities monitored decreased between September 3, 1981 and December 3, 1981. Price decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Sioux Lookout to 7.3 per cent in Toronto.

The noticeable reduction in Toronto prices over this period is directly related to the 'price war' among Toronto's major food chains since late October 1981.

Lower beef prices were recorded in most communities. Turkey was also displayed at lower prices in preparation for Christmas.

Percentage change in prices monthly from July to September, and quarterly from September to December, for all communities are presented in Table 3.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices for All Centres,
Monthly from July 2/81 to September 3/81 and
Quarterly from September 3/81 to December 3/81

Community	July 2/81 to Aug. 6/81 % Difference	Aug.6/81 to Sept.3/81 % Difference	Sept. 3/81 to Dec. 3/81 % Difference
Toronto	0.9	-1.1	-7.3
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	1.8	-1.2	-7.2
Kingston	0.8	1.0	-5.7
London	1.8	-1.6	-7.1
Ottawa	2.0	-1.7	-2.5
Owen Sound	-0.7	1.0	-5.9
Peterborough	-0.8	-1.3	-5.9
Windsor	1.4	-1.2	-4.5
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	1.0	0.5	-0.2
Dryden	1.4	1.1	-4.9
Fort Frances	5.3	-1.2	4.2
Geraldton	1.4	-2.9	2.5
Ignace	1.6	-0.5	-1.3
Kenora	0.6	1.1	-3.9
Marathon	1.0	1.6	-0.5
Rainy River	0.7	-0.5	0.3
Red Lake	0.0	0.9	-1.9
Sioux Lookout	0.5	-0.2	-0.1
Thunder Bay	0.3	-1.1	-1.2
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-0.3	-0.4	0.4
Chapleau	0.7	-2.5	3.4
Cochrane	1.9	-0.6	1.5
Elliot Lake	3.8	-1.4	-1.9
Espanola	-0.1	-0.6	-0.3
Hearst	0.9	0.5	-1.4
Iroquois Falls	1.1	-2.2	0.0
Kapuskasing	1.7	-0.8	0.3
Kirkland Lake	1.4	-2.3	2.5
Manitoulin Island	1.1	-0.2	-2.6
Moosonee	-1.0	0.3	4.3
New Liskeard	2.9	-0.8	-0.8
North Bay	-2.9	-0.6	-1.8
Sault Ste. Marie	0.6	-1.5	0.0
Sturgeon Falls	2.4	-1.5	-3.5
Sudbury	0.7	-0.9	-6.6
Timmins	-1.7	-0.3	0.3
Wawa	2.4	0.7	-1.8

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The estimated cost of a Christmas dinner for four people are compared between December 1980 and December 1981 in Table 4. The results of a survey of Christmas baking needs for the same time period are also given in Table 4.

Table 4: Christmas Dinner
Year to Year Comparison

	D e c e m b e r		%
	1980	1981	Change
<u>DINNER</u>			
Mushroom soup - 2 tins	\$.92	\$.76	
Garden Cocktail - 28 oz.	.92	.85	
Turkey Garden A Frozen - 12 lb.	13.76	13.68	
Cranberry Sauce - 14 oz.	.93	.84	
Stuffing Mix - Turkey - 8 oz.	1.12	1.05	
Bread Loaf	.60	.56	
Yams - 1 lb.	.51	.44	
Greenbeans Fresh - 1 lb.	1.12	1.48	
Broccoli - bunch	.98	1.21	
Christmas Plum Pudding - 15 oz.	2.29	2.89	
Coffee - 1 lb. bag	3.66	2.49	
2% Milk - Quart	.66	.63	
Wine - Ontario	3.70	3.85	
Dinner Total	\$31.17	\$30.73	-1.41
<u>BAKING NEEDS</u>			
Nuts:			
Raisins - 15 oz.	\$ 1.89	\$ 2.49	
Sliced Almonds - 100 gram	1.56	1.83	
Pieces Walnuts - 100 gram	1.09	1.27	
Butter - 1 lb.	1.80	2.07	
Candied Fruits:			
Mixed Peel Diced - 8 oz.	1.29	1.24	
Cherries Red and Green - 8 oz.	2.39	2.39	
Flour - 2.5 kg.	2.32	2.19	
Sugar Granulated - 2 kg.	3.49	1.39	
Spices:			
Ginger ground - 32 gram	.79	.95	
Allspice ground - 35 gram	1.19	1.32	
Cinnamon ground - 32 gram	.82	.96	
Brandy: Ontario - 13 oz.	4.85	5.55	
Eggs Large - dozen	1.18	1.22	
Baking Total	\$24.66	\$24.87	0.85
TOTAL	\$55.83	\$55.60	-0.41

*3-store average, December 22, 1981

SPECIALS INCLUDED

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA20N
CC
-F56

Report #31

4



Food Price Monitoring Program



March 1982

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #31

MARCH 1982

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

March 1982

ISSN 0228-0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	7
APPENDICIES	11

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: Dec. 4, 1980 to Dec. 3, 1981 Mar. 5, 1981 to Mar. 4, 1982 Dec. 3, 1981 to Jan. 14, 1982 Jan. 14, 1982 to Feb. 4, 1982 Feb. 4, 1982 to Mar. 4, 1982 Dec. 3, 1981 to Mar. 4, 1982 (Quarterly).....	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario, March 5, 1981; Dec. 3, 1981 and March 4, 1982	5
2a. Three-store Average of Easily Comparable Food Items in Ontario Communities, March 4, 1982	6
3. Percentage Change in Prices for All Centres Monthly from Aug. 6, 1981 to Sept. 3, 1981 and quarterly from Sept. 3, 1981 to Dec. 3, 1981 and Dec. 3, 1981 to Mar. 4, 1982	8
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for all Centres, Mar. 5, 1981 to Mar. 4, 1982	9
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, Year to Year Changes, Jan. 1981 to Jan. 1982; Feb. 1981 to Feb. 1982; and Mar. 1981 to Mar. 1982	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 8.2 per cent between December 3, 1981 and March 4, 1982.

Monthly price comparisons indicate that total prices rose by 2.9 per cent between December 3, 1981 and January 14, 1982. Prices rose by 2.2 per cent between January 14, 1982 and February 4, 1982 and by 2.9 per cent between February 4, 1982 and March 4, 1982.

The increase in the price of fresh fruits and vegetables contributed significantly to the rise in total prices. Between December and January prices in this category rose by 27.7 per cent as a result of the mid-January Florida frost. The period January to February registered a much smaller price increase of 1.8 per cent. By March 4, however, prices decreased by 3.0 per cent as crop production in other areas replaced losses in Florida. These monthly variations translated into a 26.1 per cent increase over the quarter.

Increases in the price of bread, corn flakes and crackers contributed notably to the 8.2 per cent increase in the cereals and bread category.

The beverages category rose by 8.3 per cent, as a small price decrease for orange crystals was offset by price increases for coffee and chocolate.

Lamb decreased by 14.7 per cent over the quarter and pork category declined by 6.6 per cent.

A notable increase in the price of turkey offset the decrease in the price of chicken and accounts for the 6.6 per cent increase in the poultry category.

Increases in other categories, namely, groceries, oils and fats, jams and syrups, beef, reflect general price increases on items in these categories.

Rising food prices have been attributed to the easing up of the retail "price war". The price increases on some items are notably higher because they are now rising from lower base prices, set during the "price war".

Between March 5, 1981 and March 4, 1982 the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 4.1 per cent.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison Dec. 3/81 to Mar. 4/82 % Change
		Dec. 4/80 to Dec. 3/81 % Change	Mar. 5/81 to Mar. 4/82 % Change	Dec. 3/81 to Jan. 14/82 % Change	Jan. 14/82 to Feb. 4/82 % Change	Feb. 4/82 to Mar. 4/82 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	5.4	5.8	-1.1	0.6	6.4	5.9
Cereals and Bread	7	11.4	9.8	0.4	-1.3	9.1	8.2
Beverages	5	-12.0	0.4	0.9	3.3	3.8	8.3
Canned Fruits and Vegetables							
Canned Fruits	2	6.2	-3.8	1.0	1.0	-3.3	-1.5
Canned Vegetables	4	12.8	21.9	2.2	6.0	3.2	11.8
Canned Juices	4	10.5	7.1	-2.4	6.5	-2.3	1.5
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-2.6	5.7	27.7	1.8	-3.0	26.1
Dry Groceries	7	-14.3	-1.1	8.8	0.2	2.2	11.4
Oils and Fats	4	2.7	5.2	4.8	-3.1	5.3	7.0
Jams and Syrups	3	10.7	15.1	5.0	-0.9	6.3	10.6
Other Groceries	6	2.4	6.1	-0.1	2.9	10.4	13.5
Meats							
Beef	6	-14.7	1.4	-3.4	7.0	11.0	14.7
Lamb (frozen)	1	30.3	17.3	-9.2	0.0	-5.4	-14.1
Pork	5	1.5	-1.1	-2.2	8.7	-12.2	-6.6
Poultry	3	1.1	1.3	13.4	-6.2	0.0	6.6
Total	72	-1.5	4.1	2.9	2.2	2.9	8.2

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on March 4, 1982 were lower than Toronto in two communities - Ottawa and Windsor. Prices were similar to Toronto in Hamilton. The price spread improved in Kingston since December 3, 1981.

Northwestern Ontario

The price spread between Toronto and all 11 communities in Northwestern Ontario improved since December 3, 1981.

Northeastern Ontario

Since December 3, 1981, the price spread narrowed for all 18 communities monitored in Northeastern Ontario. Prices in Sudbury were lower than Toronto.

A comparison of all communities with Toronto can be found in Table 2.

The average prices of easily comparable food items in all communities on March 4, 1982 are available in Table 2a.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Mar. 5/81 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 3/81 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 4/82 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.2	-0.7	0.0
Kingston	0.7	2.7	2.1
London	-0.9	0.0	0.6
Ottawa	0.2	4.7	-0.7
Owen Sound	-0.4	0.6	0.9
Peterborough	0.1	-0.2	0.1
Windsor	-1.2	1.8	-1.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.8	17.4	11.0
Dryden	3.4	11.6	8.1
Fort Frances	2.8	14.6	7.2
Geraldton	3.9	14.1	7.5
Ignace	3.2	12.4	4.6
Kenora	3.7	10.3	7.1
Marathon	5.3	16.4	10.2
Rainy River	5.4	11.9	8.4
Red Lake	6.4	15.5	11.1
Sioux Lookout	5.0	16.0	10.8
Thunder Bay	1.6	9.7	4.5
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	1.9	13.7	8.1
Chapleau	0.9	12.5	3.8
Cochrane	0.3	12.3	6.3
Elliot Lake	2.8	9.0	4.6
Espanola	1.2	8.3	3.3
Hearst	7.2	14.9	8.5
Iroquois Falls	0.3	9.9	1.9
Kapuskasing	1.8	10.1	4.5
Kirkland Lake	2.8	9.2	3.9
Manitoulin Island	6.7	12.2	9.3
Moosonee	13.2	24.5	14.9
New Liskeard	-0.1	9.8	4.7
North Bay	0.8	4.7	2.5
Sault Ste. Marie	0.6	7.8	1.9
Sturgeon Falls	1.5	5.2	2.0
Sudbury	-0.3	0.3	-0.6
Timmins	2.5	9.3	4.5
Wawa	4.1	14.0	7.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Table 2a: 3-Store Average* of Easily Comparable Food Items in 37 Ontario Communities, March 4, 1962

Community	Butter 1 lb.	Eggs 1 doz.	Flour 3.5 kg.	Coffee Instant 10 oz.	Dollars			Sugar 1 kg.	Sirloin Steak 1 lb.	Whole Chicken 1 lb.
					Canned Tomatoes 19 oz.	Apple Juice 48 oz.	Bananas 1 lb.			
Toronto	2.07	1.21	4.16	6.05	.81	1.63	.46	1.79	3.58	1.275
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>										
Hamilton	2.07	1.21	4.05	6.05S	.99	1.63	.47	1.79	3.61	1.46
London	2.09	1.21	4.05	6.05S	.99	1.63	.47	1.79	3.58	1.51
Ottawa	2.09	1.18	3.98	5.31S	.89	1.24S	.45	1.72	3.58	1.62
Peterborough	2.07	1.21	4.16	6.25S	.88	1.63	.49	1.79	3.58	1.26S
Windsor	2.07	1.21	3.95	5.72S	.89	1.63	.47	1.79	3.61	1.55
Kingston	2.09	1.23	3.98	6.59	1.00	1.63	.47	1.82	3.58	1.53
Owen Sound	2.15	1.23	4.05	6.35	.88	1.63	.49	1.79	3.71	1.42
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>										
Atikokan	2.26	1.49	4.06	7.57	.96	1.67	.44S	2.19	4.09	1.42
Drayton	2.17	1.32	4.19	6.61	.93	1.89	.39	1.99	3.99	1.47
Fort Frances	2.16	1.19	4.27	6.61	.93	1.39	.34	2.03	3.84	1.48
Geraldton	2.22	1.54	2.89S	7.32	.93	1.62	.56	1.96	3.92	1.49
Ignace	2.25	1.29	4.22	7.09	.51	1.75	.46S	2.04	4.02	1.54
Kenora	2.15	1.22	4.06	6.49	.85	1.91	.43	1.97	3.84	1.48
Marathon	2.34	1.44	4.46	7.29	.92	1.69	.74	2.22	3.89	1.54
Rainy River	2.37	1.45	4.42	7.71	1.00	1.46	.55	2.14	3.79	1.49
Red Lake	2.30	1.46	4.07	7.29	.92S	1.89	.53	1.97	3.69	1.51
Sioux Lookout	2.16	1.50	4.07	7.42	1.00	1.36	.59	2.37	3.92	1.43
Thunder Bay	2.13	1.17S	3.99	6.25	.95	1.77	.47S	1.99	3.99	1.39S
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>										
Blind River	2.18	1.37	3.93	7.19	.97	1.40	.55	2.09	3.58	1.52
Chapleau	2.09	1.33	3.73	6.71	.87	1.34	.47	1.74	3.93	1.18
Cochrane	2.17	1.43	3.85	7.67	.91	1.61	.46S	1.97	3.68	1.54
Elliot Lake	2.13	1.33	4.04	6.84	.87	1.66	.55	1.99S	3.78	1.47
Espanola	2.17	1.27	3.97	6.72S	.90	1.66	.43	2.02	3.65	1.56
Hearst	2.13	1.46	4.11	6.82	.94	1.67	.69	1.85	4.18	1.48
Iroquois Falls	2.14	1.35	3.93	6.94	.89	1.65	.49	1.91	3.38	1.33
Kapuskasing	2.17	1.41	3.89	6.84	.73S	1.62	.46	1.84	3.88S	1.59
Kirkland Lake	2.18	1.31	3.70S	5.99	.89	1.71	.47S	1.89	3.51	1.17S
Manitowlin Island	2.27	1.47	4.10S	6.94	.98	1.52	.43	2.04	4.04	1.39
Moosonee	2.42	1.69	3.66S	8.37	1.01S	1.57	1.04	2.07	3.84S	1.55
New Liskeard	2.18	1.31	3.41S	6.69	.89	1.68	.56	1.99	3.38	1.56
North Bay	2.19	1.23	4.19	6.34S	.91	1.63	.49	1.99	3.58	1.49
Sault Ste. Marie	2.18	1.19S	4.21	6.49	.98	1.68	.41	2.24	3.58	1.65
Sturgeon Falls	2.06	1.28	4.04	6.84	.95	1.68	.46	1.99	3.58	1.57
Sudbury	2.07	1.22	3.58	6.05	.81	1.63	.47	1.79	3.58	1.42
Timmins	2.18	1.23	3.97	6.79	.98	1.57S	.47	1.89	3.77	1.54
Wawa	2.13	1.43	3.35	7.44	.98	1.60	.44	1.88	3.79	1.43

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

*In some communities only 2 stores are monitored and the price reflects a 2-store average.

S = Special sale

Note: All sizes and product brands are consistent for all locations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS/QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

In the three month period between December 3, 1981 and March 4, 1982, 35 of the 37 communities monitored, registered price increases. Chapleau and Moosonee both had price decreases of 0.1 per cent.

Some price increases recorded were common to most of the 37 communities. These included fresh fruit and vegetable items, sugar, cornflakes, crackers, flour, coffee, ketchup, peanut butter, apple juice, and meat. Some price decreases were also recorded which included eggs, orange crystals, and tomato juice.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3. The percentage change by category for the period March 5, 1981 to March 4, 1982 is available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices for All Centres,
Monthly from August 6/81 to September 3/81 and
Quarterly from September 3/81 to March 3/81

Community	Aug.6/81 to Sept.3/81 % Difference	Sept.3/81 to Dec.3/81 % Difference	Dec.3/81 to Mar. 4/82 % Difference
Toronto	-1.1	-7.3	8.2
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-1.2	-7.2	9.0
Kingston	1.0	-5.7	7.7
London	-1.6	-7.1	8.9
Ottawa	-1.7	-2.5	2.6
Owen Sound	1.0	-5.9	8.6
Peterborough	-1.3	-5.9	8.6
Windsor	-1.2	-4.5	4.7
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.5	-0.2	2.3
Dryden	1.1	-4.9	4.9
Fort Frances	-1.2	4.2	3.3
Geraldton	-2.9	2.5	2.0
Ignace	-0.5	-1.3	0.7
Kenora	1.1	-3.9	5.1
Marathon	1.6	-0.5	2.4
Rainy River	-0.5	0.3	2.6
Red Lake	0.9	-1.9	4.2
Sioux Lookout	-0.2	-0.1	3.0
Thunder Bay	-1.1	-1.2	3.1
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-0.4	0.4	2.9
Chapleau	-2.5	3.4	-0.1
Cochrane	-0.6	1.5	2.4
Elliot Lake	-1.4	-1.9	3.9
Espanola	-0.6	-0.3	3.2
Hearst	0.5	-1.4	2.2
Iroquois Falls	-2.2	0.0	0.3
Kapuskasing	-0.8	0.3	2.7
Kirkland Lake	-2.3	2.5	3.0
Manitoulin Island	-0.2	-2.6	5.4
Moosonee	0.3	4.3	-0.1
New Liskeard	-0.8	-0.8	3.2
North Bay	-0.6	-1.8	6.0
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.5	0.0	2.3
Sturgeon Falls	-1.5	-3.5	4.9
Sudbury	-0.9	-6.6	7.3
Timmins	-0.3	0.3	3.5
Wawa	0.7	-1.8	2.2

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, March 5, 1981 to March 4, 1982 (Percentage Change)

Community	Mar. 5/81 to Mar. 4/82 % Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro- ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	4.1	5.8	9.8	0.4	8.0	5.7	-1.1	5.2	15.1	6.1S	1.4	17.3	-1.1	-0.8 1.3
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>														
Hamilton	4.3	6.5	7.9	1.2	10.5	-0.1	-3.0	-1.8	13.9	7.1	-1.7	20.2	11.6	6.3 5.2
Kingston	5.5	8.0	7.4	4.5	12.1	2.2	2.7	1.5	16.3	13.3	-0.6	29.9	0.5	3.3 2.1
London	5.8	6.2	8.7	2.5	14.9	0.5	1.9	4.6	15.7	1.4	1.8	18.5	12.0	5.3 6.7
Ottawa	3.2	8.6	8.2	-3.6	9.8	-8.2	6.3	5.0	18.6	8.6	-6.8	22.8	-1.5	9.6 -0.8
Owen Sound	5.5	8.6	10.9	0.6	13.4	1.0	5.2	4.2	23.5	7.1	-3.9	20.4	4.2	2.2 1.2
Peterborough	4.1	7.5	9.9	1.7	11.8	2.5	2.9	4.1	16.3	6.4	-7.3	20.7	4.9	-6.9 -1.5
Windsor	3.7	7.4	7.2	-9.2	13.0	-2.4	0.2	0.3	12.7	5.6	5.9	22.2	0.9	21.1 7.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>														
Atikokan	7.2	12.7	8.1	6.3	13.8	3.0	7.8	5.2	16.0	7.5	3.1	6.0	3.0	2.6 3.2
Dryden	8.8	7.7	5.3	5.7	10.3	0.0	14.7	8.2	20.2	8.8	3.2	16.3	16.3	16.4 10.5
Fort Frances	8.5	-1.4	5.9	16.2	22.4	17.9	12.1	18.9	3.8	28.7	-4.9	18.3	15.5	-31.9 -1.8
Geraldton	7.7	4.0	6.1	15.1	11.3	-10.4	5.1	20.8	17.5	11.8	3.4	4.2	10.2	13.9 7.2
Ignace	5.5	2.9	10.0	2.1	9.7	-6.5	-3.0	9.8	15.7	6.7	3.0	8.2	14.5	22.1 9.9
Kenora	10.3	7.2	4.7	16.8	4.3	6.7	5.8	16.2	20.1	2.2	2.2	27.6	2.3	-4.9 2.9
Marathon	8.9	15.7	15.2	9.1	7.8	8.7	13.2	6.7	16.4	12.0	-7.6	18.8	-0.8	21.9 0.7
Rainy River	7.1	12.7	8.2	4.8	11.8	-9.1	6.9	11.7	18.2	12.5	-0.7	37.9	4.8	10.1 5.2
Red Lake	8.7	15.5	14.0	3.5	18.2	0.5	10.0	4.8	14.8	9.5	-4.8	45.1	11.0	8.2 5.7
Sioux Lookout	9.5	18.8	14.9	7.2	13.5	7.6	4.5	3.8	9.9	17.4	2.3	44.9	0.1	8.1 5.4
Thunder Bay	7.1	9.4	7.1	1.2	17.9	-5.6	12.4	8.2	19.0	12.6	8.0	21.8	0.3	-2.1 4.8
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>														
Blind River	10.4	13.1	10.9	10.3	11.8	26.3	-1.1	6.7	21.4	29.6	-2.0	18.3	15.6	-13.5 3.8
Chapleau	7.1	11.6	7.3	8.1	6.6	14.5	10.8	10.0	14.9	4.1	-2.9	18.9	4.1	-5.9 0.5
Cochrane	10.3	12.2	6.3	15.7	10.3	-0.5	9.7	11.1	25.4	8.9	7.7	14.1	18.1	-2.0 10.4
Elliot Lake	5.9	10.5	13.0	3.0	16.0	0.2	6.4	6.4	22.6	5.8	-3.2	14.8	3.3	0.2 0.5
Espanola	6.3	11.9	10.3	9.4	14.6	8.7	-1.1	13.4	25.9	8.5	-12.0	13.7	0.9	4.8 -3.8
Hearst	5.4	8.0	8.0	11.3	11.3	-11.8	6.9	4.5	13.8	5.7	4.7	16.8	8.0	11.1 7.5
Iroquois Falls	5.8	15.7	2.5	0.3	12.4	4.4	10.3	15.9	27.5	10.5	-4.1	1.7	-5.6	-4.2 -4.2
Kapuskasing	6.9	20.0	12.2	5.6	15.4	2.4	-0.9	7.8	16.9	9.6	-5.3	22.8	3.8	2.0 0.6
Kirkland Lake	5.3	15.8	7.6	1.8	16.6	9.0	-5.0	6.9	18.0	7.4	-6.3	-25.0	7.3	6.1 -1.3
Manitoulin Island	6.7	10.3	9.0	2.5	15.6	5.5	6.1	3.8	33.2	16.6	-0.9	22.8	-8.7	8.1 -0.9
Meosonee	5.7	11.0	7.6	4.7	17.2	-5.7	13.9	0.3	18.1	9.1	-2.8	17.2	18.2	1.7 5.9
New Liskeard	9.1	12.0	3.0	8.9	15.2	10.5	11.4	4.9	22.9	9.1	-8.2	22.2	9.5	17.0 2.8
North Bay	5.9	14.8	11.9	2.1	12.4	1.3	4.1	6.0	5.0	4.4	-8.2	17.2	9.5	17.0 2.8
Sault Ste. Marie	5.5	12.7	11.9	2.5	13.7	2.8	16.5	1.4	-17.9	7.3	-4.0	-5.3	1.3	15.6 0.5
Sturgeon Falls	4.6	3.8	12.0	10.8	10.4	0.9	3.2	8.1	16.4	-3.4	-3.7	19.9	-4.9	9.1 -0.9
Sudbury	3.7	9.7	2.3	-2.1	11.3	6.1	-1.4	4.4	12.1	6.2	2.2	15.9	0.2	-1.8 1.8
Timmins	6.1	10.6	10.6	2.9	15.7	-1.0	3.0	4.7	12.9	8.9	-2.7	24.6	9.6	3.8 3.9
Wawa	7.7	14.6	12.5	6.9	23.4	-2.9	15.3	3.5	14.5	14.8	-4.5	12.2	-3.8	6.1 -1.7

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

Table 4:- Year to Year Change in Wholesale and Retail
Prices of Selected Fresh Vegetable Items

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	Jan.10/81	Jan.20/82	% Change	Jan.10/81	Jan.20/82	% Change
Ont. Cabbage (ea.)	.44	.44	0.0	.91	.98	7.7
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.38	.35	-7.9	.69	.88	27.5
U.S. Broccoli (bunch)	.61	1.33	118.0	.81	1.98	144.4
U.S. Celery (ea.)	1.02	.67	-34.3	1.38	.99	-28.3
U.S. Cucumber (ea.)	.25	.56	124.0	.50	.83	66.0
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.43	.81	88.4	.81	1.58	95.1
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.75	1.03	37.3	1.21	1.74	43.8
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.38	.42	10.5	.69	.88	27.5
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.60	1.00	-37.5	1.89	1.73	-8.5
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.54	.67	24.1	.88	.99	12.5
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.40	.67	67.5	.76	1.48	94.7

	<u>Feb.5/81</u>	<u>Feb.4/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Feb.6/81</u>	<u>Feb.4/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ont. Cabbage (ea.)	.58	.56	-3.4	.91	1.04	14.3
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.42	.43	2.4	.78	.88	12.8
U.S. Broccoli (bunch)	.77	.88	14.3	1.08	1.25	15.7
U.S. Celery (ea.)	.46	.75	63.0	.83	1.28	54.2
U.S. Cucumbers (ea.)	.42	.52	23.8	.59	.81	37.3
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.45	.83	84.4	.51	1.21	137.3
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	1.25	.81	-35.2	1.99	1.65	-17.1
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.50	.45	-10.0	.81	.88	8.6
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.80	1.10	-38.9	1.78	1.88	5.6
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.58	.70	20.7	.95	1.11	16.8
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.80	.53	-33.8	1.23	1.31	6.5

	<u>Mar.5/81</u>	<u>Mar.4/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Mar.5/81</u>	<u>Mar.4/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ont. Cabbage (ea.)	.58	.53	-8.6	.81	1.15	42.0
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.46	.39	-15.2	.91	.91	0.0
U.S. Broccoli (bunch)	.69	.66	-4.3	1.18	1.08	-8.5
U.S. Celery (ea.)	.46	.58	26.1	.85	1.34	57.6
U.S. Cucumber (ea.)	.30	.50	66.7	.56	.78	39.3
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.52	.45	-13.5	.81	.74	-8.6
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	1.09	.56	-48.6	1.99	1.45	-27.1
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.54	.45	-16.7	.88	.91	3.4
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.55	1.05	-32.3	2.18	1.91	-12.4
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.63	.66	4.8	.95	1.01	6.3
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.80	.43	-46.3	1.55	.95	-38.7

* Specials are included in the three store average.

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA20N
CC
-756

Report #32



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



June 1982

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
APPENDICIES	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: March 5, 1981 to March 4, 1982 June 4, 1981 to June 3, 1982 March 4, 1982 to April 7, 1982 April 7, 1982 to May 6, 1982 May 6, 1982 to June 3, 1982 March 4, 1982 to June 3, 1982 (Quarterly)	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: June 4, 1981; March 4, 1982 and June 3, 1982	4
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Sept. 3, 1981 to Dec. 3, 1981 Dec. 3, 1981 to Mar. 4, 1982 Mar. 4, 1982 to June 3, 1982	6
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: March 4, 1982 to June 3, 1982	7
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, Year to Year Changes: April 1981 to April 1982 May 1981 to May 1982 June 1981 to June 1982	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 7.7 percent between March 4, 1982 and June 3, 1982.

Monthly price comparisons indicate that total prices rose by 3.5 percent between March 4, 1982 and April 7, 1982. Total prices rose by 1.7 percent between April 7, 1982 and May 6, 1982 and by 2.3 percent between May 6, 1982 and June 3, 1982.

Increases in the prices of pork, lamb and beef contributed notably to the rise in total prices. Between March and June pork prices rose by 28.2 percent reflecting steeply rising hog prices triggered by a reduction in Canadian hog supplies. Beef prices rose by 11.2 percent between March and June in response to a reduction in Canadian supplies, increased consumer demand attributable to the barbecue season, and an unfavourable exchange rate on imported cattle.

Lamb prices rose by 16.8 percent over the same period, influenced by an unfavourable exchange rate on imported lamb.

Retail poultry prices decreased by 3.3 percent between March and June as lower prices for chicken more than offset price increases for turkey.

Increases in the price of pineapple and fruit cocktail contributed to the 12.9 percent rise in the canned fruits category.

The canned juices category registered a 7.9 percent increase due to price increases on all items in this category.

The 8.4 percent increase in the fresh fruits and vegetables category reflects increases in the prices of apples and cabbage. Lettuce prices, which increased sharply in April due to a temporary reduction in supplies, dropped substantially as supplies increased.

Price increases on rice, pasta, salt and beans were the main contributors to the 9.1 percent increase in the dry groceries category.

Between June 4, 1981 and June 3, 1982 the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by 8.9 percent.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison March 4/82 to June 3/82 % Change
		Mar. 5/81 to Mar. 4/82	June 4/81 to June 3/82	% Change	Mar. 4/82 to Apr. 7/82	Apr. 7/82 to May 6/82	May 6/82 to June 3/82	
		% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	5.8	6.7		0.7	2.2	1.3	4.3
Cereals and Bread	7	9.8	10.9		1.6	-2.7	3.0	1.8
Beverages	5	0.4	0.0		2.5	3.2	-4.3	1.1
Canned Fruits and Vegetables								
Canned Fruits	2	-3.8	11.2		5.9	2.8	3.6	12.9
Canned Vegetables	4	21.9	22.5		-0.4	1.2	3.5	4.3
Canned Juices	4	7.1	14.9		16.9	-0.9	-6.8	7.9
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	5.7	-0.5		4.3	0.1	3.8	8.4
Dry Groceries	7	-1.1	7.3		7.7	1.8	-0.5	9.1
Oils and Fats	4	5.2	9.1		5.6	0.0	0.1	5.7
Jams and Syrups	3	15.1	19.6		1.0	1.4	2.0	4.5
Other Groceries	6	6.1	7.8		2.9	-2.2	5.4	5.9
Meats								
Beef	6	1.4	9.2		0.7	4.1	4.7	11.2
Lamb (frozen)	1	17.3	21.8		1.6	2.8	11.8	16.8
Pork	5	-1.1	24.7		6.9	9.4	9.6	28.2
Poultry	3	1.3	-0.6		-2.9	-2.1	1.7	-3.3
Total	72	4.1	8.9		3.5	1.7	2.3	7.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on June 3, 1982 were lower than Toronto in all other Southern Ontario communities.

Northwestern Ontario

The price spread between Toronto and all communities in Northwestern Ontario improved since March 4, 1982.

Northeastern Ontario

Prices were lower than Toronto in four communities in Northeastern Ontario in June. Price spreads between Toronto and 17 communities improved since March 4, 1982.

A comparison of all communities and Toronto can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	June 4/81 % Difference from Toronto	March 4/82 % Difference from Toronto	June 3/82 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-1.6	0.0	-3.2
Kingston	1.3	2.1	-2.5
London	-1.2	0.6	-10.0
Ottawa	-1.7	-0.7	-7.2
Owen Sound	-1.1	0.9	-1.9
Peterborough	-2.1	0.1	-1.8
Windsor	-2.8	-1.6	-1.8
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.9	11.0	5.6
Dryden	6.4	8.1	4.7
Fort Frances	4.5	7.2	4.5
Geraldton	4.4	7.5	4.3
Ignace	5.7	7.3	6.6
Kenora	3.3	7.1	3.4
Marathon	7.0	10.2	6.1
Rainy River	5.2	8.4	3.6
Red Lake	6.1	11.1	6.1
Sioux Lookout	7.2	10.8	6.3
Thunder Bay	2.3	4.5	2.5
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.9	8.1	4.1
Chapleau	0.9	3.8	4.9
Cochrane	0.4	6.3	1.5
Elliot Lake	0.6	4.6	1.7
Espanola	0.4	3.3	-0.8
Hearst	4.8	8.5	6.1
Iroquois Falls	2.5	1.9	-0.9
Kapuskasing	2.4	4.5	0.7
Kirkland Lake	1.6	3.9	1.0
Manitoulin Island	3.5	9.3	2.7
Moosonee	9.7	14.9	11.3
New Liskeard	-0.8	4.7	0.7
North Bay	-1.0	2.5	-1.4
Sault Ste. Marie	-0.6	1.9	1.8
Sturgeon Falls	0.8	2.0	0.5
Sudbury	-0.2	-0.6	-7.0
Timmins	0.8	4.5	0.1
Wawa	5.8	7.7	3.0

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

In the three-month period between March 4, 1982 and June 3, 1982, 36 of the 37 communities monitored registered price increases. London had a 3.7 percent price decrease.

Some price increases were common to many communities. These included beef, lamb, pork, fresh fruits and vegetable items, dairy products and ketchup. Price decreases were recorded in the poultry, cereal and bread, as well as general grocery categories.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage change by category for the period March 4, 1982 to June 3, 1982 is available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters
for All Centres

	Sept.3/81 to Dec.3/81	Dec.3/81 to Mar. 4/82	Mar.4/82 to June 3/82
Community	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	-7.3	8.2	7.7
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-7.2	9.0	4.2
Kingston	-5.7	7.7	2.8
London	-7.1	8.9	-3.7
Ottawa	-2.5	2.6	0.6
Owen Sound	-5.9	8.6	4.7
Peterborough	-5.9	8.6	5.7
Windsor	-4.5	4.7	7.4
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-0.2	2.3	2.4
Dryden	-4.9	4.9	4.3
Fort Frances	4.2	3.3	5.0
Geraldton	2.5	2.0	4.4
Ignace	-1.3	3.3	7.0
Kenora	-3.9	5.1	3.9
Marathon	-0.5	2.4	3.7
Rainy River	0.3	2.6	2.9
Red Lake	-1.9	4.2	3.6
Sioux Lookout	-0.1	3.0	3.7
Thunder Bay	-1.2	3.1	5.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.4	2.9	4.2
Chapleau	3.4	-0.1	8.9
Cochrane	1.5	2.4	2.8
Elliot Lake	-1.9	3.9	4.7
Espanola	-0.3	3.2	3.4
Hearst	-1.4	2.2	5.3
Iroquois Falls	0.0	0.3	4.7
Kapuskasing	0.3	2.7	3.7
Kirkland Lake	2.5	3.0	4.7
Manitoulin Island	-2.6	5.4	1.2
Moosonee	4.3	-0.1	4.3
New Liskeard	-0.8	3.2	3.6
North Bay	-1.8	6.0	3.6
Sault Ste. Marie	0.0	-3.7	6.0
Sturgeon Falls	-3.5	4.9	6.1
Sudbury	-6.6	7.3	0.8
Timmins	0.3	3.5	3.1
Wawa	-1.8	2.2	3.0

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Community	Mar./4/82 to June 3/82		Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread		Beverages & Juices	Canned Vegetables & Fats		Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats		Jams & Syrups		Other Gro- ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
	%	Change																	
Toronto	7.7		4.3	1.8	1.1	8.0	8.4	9.1	5.7	4.5	5.9	11.2	16.8	28.2	-3.3	14.9			
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>																			
Hamilton	4.2		1.6	1.3	-3.8	3.4	14.2	1.3	9.8	3.2	2.0	7.4	8.8	10.9	0.4	7.7			
Kingston	2.8		3.4	4.0	-4.9	1.9	9.4	2.2	0.0	5.6	0.7	9.8	9.1	4.6	-10.6	5.1			
London	-3.7		-4.6	5.6	-14.9	0.4	-9.9	-1.4	4.0	4.2	-0.9	-1.5	1.6	8.7	-24.6	-1.2			
Ottawa	0.6		-9.2	-3.4	2.6	7.8	-1.3	-9.6	-1.3	4.8	-1.9	10.4	7.6	19.9	-22.8	8.1			
Owen Sound	4.7		0.6	-0.7	-4.4	2.2	6.6	4.9	9.1	1.2	3.7	15.3	2.8	15.3	5.2	13.0			
Peterborough	5.7		3.5	-2.3	-3.6	4.4	5.8	5.9	7.0	6.0	7.5	16.9	9.2	12.3	9.0	13.6			
Windsor	7.4		2.5	6.2	2.2	5.2	8.9	11.3	4.5	6.8	2.3	8.2	15.3	26.4	-1.1	13.1			
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>																			
Atikokan	2.4		2.0	-2.8	1.4	5.8	-0.3	-1.5	0.8	3.6	0.0	8.1	0.0	12.0	-2.0	7.3			
Dryden	4.3		2.0	3.2	3.6	2.6	17.6	-1.6	0.4	-3.7	2.0	20.5	-9.5	3.1	-4.4	8.2			
Fort Frances	5.0		3.4	-3.3	2.4	5.8	3.4	-0.6	3.5	28.0	3.3	14.8	-0.4	13.0	9.2	12.3			
Geraldton	4.4		6.6	15.2	-0.1	-1.9	26.7	-3.6	-1.0	2.4	-3.0	14.5	4.0	-2.7	-6.9	4.7			
Ignace	7.0		2.0	1.6	4.1	2.4	27.3	16.0	-0.5	7.1	4.8	18.8	15.2	13.1	-8.2	12.3			
Kenora	3.9		0.3	3.8	-3.5	2.9	11.6	-1.6	-0.5	1.6	-1.1	20.5	-5.2	8.6	2.1	11.5			
Marathon	3.7		0.7	-1.5	1.3	5.8	4.1	-4.6	4.3	5.8	-10.2	16.9	0.0	33.5	-11.7	15.6			
Rainy River	2.9		1.2	1.2	3.2	1.7	17.5	0.3	-7.6	2.8	-2.7	4.7	0.0	9.2	2.6	5.4			
Red Lake	3.6		1.0	4.9	-0.6	1.2	7.6	1.8	-10.5	6.8	7.9	15.8	0.0	2.1	6.0	8.1			
Sioux Lookout	3.6		-3.4	1.1	0.9	4.3	20.6	-1.6	-0.6	3.8	-2.1	10.6	-12.1	15.4	0.4	8.5			
Thunder Bay	5.6		2.7	3.3	-1.3	1.3	20.1	1.3	2.4	2.3	-0.9	18.4	0.0	12.9	0.6	12.5			
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>																			
Blind River	4.2		2.4	0.3	-0.6	5.2	8.8	-1.9	7.8	2.8	-3.5	14.8	0.0	6.8	14.3	10.6			
Chapleau	8.9		3.2	9.1	2.4	10.6	20.0	10.7	-3.1	4.2	6.6	22.9	14.1	3.4	10.9	13.8			
Cochrane	2.8		1.2	3.1	-7.8	-2.9	5.7	-4.3	-0.4	3.7	-0.8	12.4	4.1	13.7	0.5	13.8			
Elliot Lake	4.7		1.6	-0.7	-6.2	-1.7	7.7	8.6	6.3	1.9	4.7	9.3	10.7	24.4	0.6	13.2			
Espanola	3.4		0.5	0.8	-7.3	2.8	18.2	-7.1	-1.6	-15.1	0.0	1.9	2.4	25.5	-5.3	16.5			
Hearst	5.3		4.0	0.0	0.5	2.8	29.3	-3.5	-0.4	6.4	3.2	12.3	-7.6	8.9	7.3	8.8			
Iroquois Falls	4.7		1.0	4.1	0.8	-1.5	6.5	-1.0	-0.5	6.4	1.4	14.7	0.0	22.4	6.4	15.2			
Kapuskasing	3.7		1.6	-0.3	-9.1	1.1	13.3	-7.7	0.9	-13.0	1.3	13.9	0.0	29.1	15.5	18.4			
Kirkland Lake	4.7		-2.5	-3.8	-0.7	1.3	6.8	5.2	0.8	-7.3	1.6	24.6	25.7	18.9	-10.5	17.5			
Manitoulin Island	1.2		1.0	2.3	-1.9	5.0	2.4	-5.0	-6.4	-5.9	-2.2	9.1	1.9	14.6	-10.2	7.5			
Moosonee	4.3		-2.5	5.3	-1.6	2.3	7.3	0.7	-0.8	3.8	0.5	20.3	0.0	12.6	2.4	13.8			
New Liskeard	3.6		-0.1	7.9	-7.0	0.6	8.3	5.7	1.7	5.2	1.0	14.3	13.0	3.6	-0.6	8.3			
North Bay	3.6		-1.2	-3.8	-7.3	1.2	5.9	5.0	-7.9	15.1	3.8	16.9	3.1	23.4	-11.3	14.0			
Sault Ste. Marie	6.0		0.7	-5.4	-1.8	2.7	6.2	6.6	-5.7	-4.4	10.0	33.3	22.5	21.2	-10.2	21.2			
Sturgeon Falls	6.1		7.6	-4.4	-3.0	3.4	12.7	0.5	-2.6	4.7	16.4	14.8	10.3	24.2	-3.0	14.9			
Sudbury	0.8		-5.6	0.9	-1.3	-0.5	3.5	-10.0	0.0	7.4	-3.6	5.0	9.3	16.1	-4.6	7.6			
Timmins	3.1		0.4	0.9	-7.6	2.6	15.2	6.2	2.2	2.2	-2.0	14.1	-3.0	3.7	-3.9	6.8			
Nawa	3.0		1.2	4.6	-2.1	0.4	20.9	-1.7	-4.4	3.6	-9.3	13.5	3.5	9.6	-8.5	8.3			

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

*This depicts a quarterly change. Year to year figures were given in the March report.

Table 4: - Year to Year Change in Wholesale and Retail
Prices of Selected Fresh Vegetable Items

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	Apr.2/81	Apr.7/82	% Change	Apr.3/81	Apr.7/82	% Change
Ont. Cabbage (ea.)	.67	.87	29.9	.79	.85	7.6
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.42	.39	-7.1	.45	.91	102.2
U.S. Broccoli (bunch)	.64	1.33	107.8	1.29	1.51	17.1
U.S. Celery (ea.)	.41	.60	46.3	.85	1.02	20.0
U.S. Cucumber (ea.)	.33	.33	0.0	.62	.58	-6.5
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.47	.87	85.1	.85	1.62	90.1
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.44	.71	61.4	1.09	1.19	9.2
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.56	.41	-26.8	.45	.98	117.8
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.75	1.00	-42.9	1.18	1.81	53.4
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.58	.66	13.8	.98	.98	0.0
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.90	.38	-57.8	1.05	.88	-16.2

	May 7/81	May 5/82	% Change	May 7/81	May 5/82	% Change
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.50	.45	-10.0	1.05	1.02	-2.9
U.S. Broccoli (bunch)	.75	.69	-8.0	.99	.85	14.1
U.S. Celery (ea.)	.88	.64	-27.3	1.26	1.12	-11.1
U.S. Cucumbers (ea.)	.31	.40	29.0	.53	.58	9.4
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.60	.50	-16.7	.68	.99	45.6
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.53	.75	41.5	1.02	1.65	61.8
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.56	.41	-26.8	1.15	.98	-14.8
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.75	.95	-45.7	2.78	1.95	-29.9
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.60	.66	10.0	.95	.99	4.2
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.30	.36	20.0	.92	.99	7.6

	Jun.4/81	Jun.3/82	% Change	Jun.4/81	Jun.3/82	% Change
Ont. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.58	.45	-22.4	1.18	.95	-19.5
U.S. Broccoli (bunch)	.75	.77	2.7	1.21	1.18	-2.5
U.S. Celery (ea.)	.79	.79	0.0	1.22	1.35	10.7
U.S. Cucumber (ea.)	.20	.28	40.0	.55	.59	7.3
U.S. Lettuce (head)	.58	.60	3.4	.81	.82	1.3
U.S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.38	.59	55.3	.95	1.32	38.9
Ont. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.77	.41	-46.8	1.38	.95	-31.2
P.E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	2.20	.95	-56.8	2.98	1.98	-33.6
U.S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.56	.58	3.6	.91	.98	7.7
U.S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.45	.64	42.2	.99	1.38	40.0

*Specials are included in the three store average.

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated share of shoppers in the eleven major markets of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables (including canned juices)	Other Groceries
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	Meats (including beef, frozen lamb, pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

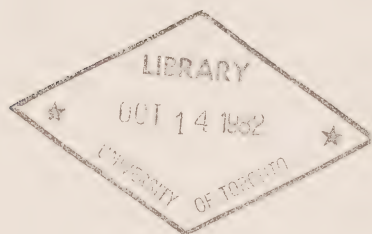
Report #33



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Ontario

Food Price Monitoring Program



September 1982

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #33

SEPTEMBER 1982

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

September 1982

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
WAREHOUSE STORE SURVEY	9
APPENDICIES	10

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: June 4, 1981 to June 3, 1982 Sept. 3, 1981 to Sept. 2, 1982 June 3, 1982 to July 7, 1982 July 7, 1982 to Aug. 4, 1982 Aug. 4, 1982 to Sept. 2, 1982 June 3, 1982 to Sept. 2, 1982	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: September 3, 1981, June 3, 1982, September 2, 1982	4
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Dec. 3, 1981 to Mar. 4, 1982 Mar. 4, 1982 to June 3, 1982 June 3, 1982 to Sept. 2, 1982	6
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: June 3, 1982 to Sept. 2, 1982	7
4. Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fresh Vegetables, Year to Year Changes: July 1981 to July 1982 Aug. 1981 to Aug. 1982 Sept. 1981 to Sept. 1982	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto decreased by 2.1 percent during the quarter between June 3, 1982 and September 2, 1982.

Monthly comparisons show that total prices rose by 0.3 percent between June 3, 1982 and July 7, 1982. Total prices declined by 0.8 percent between July 7, 1982 and August 4, 1982, and by 1.5 percent between August 4, 1982 and September 2, 1982.

The 2.1 percent decrease over the quarter reflects substantial decreases in the fresh fruit and vegetables category (27.6 percent), the beef category (12.4 percent) and the lamb category (8.4 percent). Pork decreased by 2.1 percent over the last month of the quarter.

The cereal and bread category registered a 6.3 percent increase due to increases in the price of corn-flakes and oats.

The 6.2 percent increase in the beverages category reflects lifting of July specials on coffee and increases in the price of chocolate.

The canned fruit category increased by 8.3 percent between June 3 and September 2, 1982, reflecting increases in the price of all items in this category.

The 5.5 percent increase in the canned juices category reflects the lifting of July and August specials on tomato juice and garden cocktail.

The increase of 3.3 percent in the jams and syrups category is largely due to a 5.4 percent increase in the price of jam.

The poultry category registered a 7.0 percent increase over the quarter due to the lifting of June specials on chicken and an increase in the price of turkey.

Between September 3, 1981 and September 2, 1982 the total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto rose by an annual rate of 5.8 percent.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto.

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison June 3/82 to Sept. 2/82 % Change
		June 4/81 to June 3/82 % Change	Sept. 3/81 to Sept. 2/82 % Change	June 3/82 to July 7/82 % Change	July 7/82 to Aug. 4/82 % Change	Aug. 4/82 to Sept. 2/82 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	6.7	3.8	0.5	-1.3	2.3	1.5
Cereals and Bread	7	10.9	12.6	2.3	0.2	3.7	6.3
Beverages	5	0.0	8.1	1.3	4.3	0.5	6.2
Canned Fruits and Vegetables							
Canned Fruits	2	11.2	9.8	-0.9	5.3	3.8	8.3
Canned Vegetables	4	22.5	20.9	-1.9	0.0	1.5	-0.4
Canned Juices	4	14.9	8.8	-2.2	5.6	2.1	5.5
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-0.5	-7.0	4.8	-12.7	-20.9	-27.6
Dry Groceries	7	7.3	1.9	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	-1.3
Oils and Fats	4	9.1	10.6	1.7	-3.4	3.8	1.9
Jams and Syrups	3	19.6	17.9	0.0	0.3	3.0	3.3
Other Groceries	6	7.8	1.2	1.3	0.9	-4.6	-2.4
Meats							
Beef	6	9.2	-0.2	-4.1	-4.0	-4.8	-12.4
Lamb (frozen)	1	21.8	14.5	-3.5	-4.0	-1.1	-8.4
Pork	5	24.7	12.2	0.3	1.0	-2.1	-0.9
Poultry	3	-0.6	-3.6	0.0	5.1	1.8	7.0
Total	72	8.9	5.8	0.3	-0.8	-1.5	-2.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on September 2, 1982 were lower than Toronto in five Southern Ontario communities. Kingston and London were slightly higher. The price spread narrowed in five communities since the last quarter and was unchanged in two others.

Northwestern Ontario

The price differential between Toronto and many communities in both Northwestern and Northeastern Ontario has widened since the last quarter, often reflecting the fact that prices in these communities did not decrease as much as Toronto prices. Table 2 shows the comparative rates.

Since June 3, 1980 the price spread improved in three Northwestern Ontario communities and widened in the remaining eight communities.

Northeastern Ontario

Prices in Sudbury were 8.8 percent lower than Toronto in September. This represents an improvement from the last quarter.

Prices in the other Northeastern centres were higher than Toronto in September. Price spreads have worsened in all these centres with the exception of Blind River.

It is interesting to note that the three centres (Ottawa, Sudbury and London) which have shown sharp price improvements relative to Toronto are those with warehouse stores. This likely reflects the influence of competitive warehouse prices. This factor can be seen in the price decreases measured in Table 3.

A comparison of Toronto and all communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Sept. 3/81 % Difference from Toronto	June 3/82 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 2/82 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-1.6	-3.2	-0.3
Kingston	1.3	-2.5	0.4
London	-1.2	-10.0	0.2
Ottawa	-1.7	-7.2	-7.3
Owen Sound	-1.1	-1.9	-1.9
Peterborough	-2.1	-1.8	-1.4
Windsor	-2.8	-1.8	-0.3
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	7.9	5.6	8.7
Dryden	6.4	4.7	5.3
Fort Frances	4.5	4.5	5.2
Geraldton	4.4	4.3	2.0
Ignace	5.7	6.6	5.5
Kenora	3.3	3.4	2.8
Marathon	7.0	6.1	8.9
Rainy River	5.2	3.6	6.3
Red Lake	6.1	6.1	8.3
Sioux Lookout	7.2	6.3	7.5
Thunder Bay	2.3	2.5	4.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.9	4.1	1.9
Chapleau	0.9	4.9	6.5
Cochrane	0.4	1.5	4.8
Elliot Lake	0.6	1.7	5.3
Espanola	0.4	-0.8	0.2
Hearst	4.8	6.1	10.0
Iroquois Falls	2.5	-0.9	2.2
Kapuskasing	2.4	0.7	1.9
Kirkland Lake	1.6	1.0	2.4
Manitoulin Island	3.5	2.7	7.3
Moosonee	9.7	11.3	14.6
New Liskeard	-0.8	0.7	3.3
North Bay	-1.0	-1.4	1.0
Sault Ste. Marie	-0.6	1.8	5.3
Sturgeon Falls	0.8	0.5	1.6
Sudbury	-0.2	-7.0	-8.8
Timmins	0.8	0.1	2.3
Wawa	5.8	3.0	6.4

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between June 3, 1982 and September 2, 1982 prices decreased in 20 of the 37 Ontario communities monitored. Decreases ranged from 0.1 percent in Thunder Bay to 4.2 percent in Geraldton and Blind River. Prices in Sudbury decreased by 4.1 percent following a slight increase of 0.8 percent during the quarter March 4 to June 3, 1982.

Price trends in Sudbury over the past two quarters can be attributed to the effects of warehouse prices in food chains. Some conventional supermarkets have converted to warehouse stores with a consequent reduction in prices.

London registered a notable increase of 8.9 percent between June 3, 1982 and September 2, 1982. During the previous quarter, March 4 to June 3, 1982, food prices declined substantially as a result of increased competition among the major retail grocery chains in London, possibly brought on by the opening of a warehouse store there. The significant increase during the latest quarter has been attributed to the easing up of this retail price competition and the effects of moving from lower base prices set during its duration.

Lower beef prices and seasonal decreases in fruit and vegetable prices in all communities offset the effects of increases on other items and resulted in smaller percentage changes. The jams and syrup category showed larger increases in some centres due to lifting of specials as well as regular price increases on some items in this category.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage change by category for the period June 3, 1982 to September 2, 1982 is available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 4 shows the annual change in the wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable prices for the three months of the quarter.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Dec. 3/81 to Mar. 4/82 % Difference	Mar. 4/82 to June 3/82 % Difference	June 3/82 to Sept. 2/82 % Difference
Toronto	8.2	7.7	-2.1
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	9.0	4.2	0.9
Kingston	7.7	2.8	0.8
London	8.9	-3.7	8.9
Ottawa	2.6	0.6	-2.2
Owen Sound	8.6	4.7	-2.1
Peterborough	8.6	5.7	-1.7
Windsor	4.7	7.4	-0.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.3	2.4	0.8
Dryden	4.9	4.3	-1.6
Fort Frances	3.3	5.0	-1.5
Geraldton	2.0	4.4	-4.2
Ignace	3.3	7.0	-3.2
Kenora	5.1	3.9	-2.6
Marathon	2.4	3.7	0.5
Rainy River	2.6	2.9	0.5
Red Lake	3.4	3.6	-0.1
Sioux Lookout	2.6	3.7	-0.9
Thunder Bay	3.1	5.6	-0.1
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.9	4.2	-4.2
Chapleau	-0.1	8.9	-0.6
Cochrane	2.4	2.8	1.1
Elliot Lake	3.9	4.7	1.4
Espanola	3.2	3.4	-1.0
Hearst	2.2	5.3	1.5
Iroquois Falls	0.3	4.7	0.9
Kapuskasing	2.7	3.7	-0.8
Kirkland Lake	3.0	4.7	-0.7
Manitoulin Island	5.4	1.2	2.3
Moosonee	-0.1	4.3	0.9
New Liskeard	3.2	3.6	0.4
North Bay	6.0	3.6	0.3
Sault Ste. Marie	3.7	6.0	1.3
Sturgeon Falls	4.9	6.1	-2.1
Sudbury	7.3	0.8	-4.1
Timmins	3.5	3.1	0.1
Wawa	2.2	3.0	1.1

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Community	June 3/82 to Sept. 2/82 % Change		Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro-ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro-ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
	All Items															
Toronto	-2.1		1.5	6.3	6.2	4.6	-27.6	-1.3	1.9	3.3	-2.4	-12.4	-8.4	-0.9	7.0	-5.6
S. ONTARIO																
Hamilton	0.9		5.5	7.2	4.6	6.2	-26.0	7.0	0.9	7.0	0.2	-7.1	-1.5	9.9	-5.1	-0.3
Kingston	0.8		-0.9	4.5	4.8	9.3	-20.6	2.8	7.3	4.5	9.5	-13.0	-3.6	12.9	-2.1	-2.2
London	8.9		6.5	14.9	19.8	8.3	-12.1	14.0	5.6	6.2	11.5	1.6	3.9	12.1	27.1	8.6
Ottawa	-2.2		8.9	2.0	-7.2	0.9	-17.9	6.7	0.6	2.9	0.6	-16.5	-10.2	4.7	-6.8	-7.1
Owen Sound	-2.1		-0.1	6.8	5.7	7.3	-25.5	-0.4	0.8	-8.6	1.2	-9.7	2.7	0.2	-6.0	-4.8
Peterborough	-1.7		1.5	8.1	3.1	5.1	-23.4	-1.2	2.7	2.0	-0.6	-12.2	-3.6	1.6	0.0	-5.2
Windsor	-0.6		3.1	3.5	7.5	7.5	-29.7	-1.2	6.9	3.3	-0.3	-6.8	-1.8	4.8	-6.4	-2.1
N.W. ONTARIO																
Atrikokan	0.8		-0.6	1.8	-2.0	4.5	-5.3	-4.0	-3.3	4.3	-1.5	0.9	5.3	9.7	15.0	6.0
Dryden	-1.6		0.3	0.7	1.8	2.4	-17.9	2.4	-0.4	4.1	-6.2	-16.6	23.3	10.1	2.8	-2.2
Fort Frances	-1.5		-1.9	0.0	-2.8	0.0	-11.9	-6.4	-5.8	3.4	-5.2	-5.6	11.6	10.5	17.2	4.2
Geraldton	-4.2		2.1	-1.9	-6.8	4.3	-27.5	1.0	1.9	2.5	-3.2	-16.8	1.2	4.5	4.4	-5.9
Ignace	-3.2		1.1	2.3	0.7	2.7	-26.2	-3.2	1.7	2.7	2.4	-17.7	-6.6	5.6	8.9	-5.3
Kenora	-2.6		2.6	0.6	3.7	3.0	-29.6	5.2	-2.0	2.5	-2.8	-11.2	1.4	1.0	2.4	-4.3
Marathon	0.5		-0.6	3.7	6.1	2.8	-10.6	9.7	1.5	5.8	10.0	-12.6	0.0	-5.6	5.1	-6.9
Rainy River	0.5		1.2	2.0	-1.5	5.3	-28.4	-0.1	2.4	4.6	5.5	2.8	0.0	15.5	0.6	6.3
Red Lake	-0.1		1.0	1.3	2.1	5.2	-21.5	0.7	15.1	2.1	-0.4	-6.5	-8.0	9.1	3.6	0.0
Sioux Lookout	-0.9		-5.0	2.3	2.1	8.4	-30.0	1.5	4.0	0.9	2.0	-1.5	17.0	3.8	6.5	2.9
Thunder Bay	-0.1		0.4	0.3	4.2	2.2	-23.5	2.0	-1.6	2.7	2.3	-6.9	5.6	18.8	1.1	3.7
N.E. ONTARIO																
Blind River	-4.2		0.4	5.7	8.3	14.8	-23.6	-5.0	-4.3	3.5	-12.1	-16.9	-3.5	-8.8	-2.9	-11.2
Chapleau	-0.6		-0.9	4.5	2.6	4.4	-23.1	2.1	6.3	9.3	2.0	-11.7	-1.5	14.5	-1.2	-1.3
Cochrane	1.1		2.8	5.3	7.1	12.6	-20.6	2.0	3.2	2.7	3.0	-2.6	0.0	-0.8	1.9	-1.2
Elliott Lake	1.4		-0.8	6.1	6.5	7.0	-15.3	-2.7	2.6	3.7	3.5	1.8	0.0	5.3	0.6	2.8
Espanola	-1.0		1.3	2.6	6.7	2.4	-24.7	4.0	4.1	25.3	2.2	-14.9	3.5	-1.9	5.8	-6.4
Hearst	1.5		0.9	2.2	0.4	2.2	-2.9	1.7	4.3	4.5	0.9	1.9	0.0	3.4	0.7	2.2
Iroquois Falls	0.9		2.3	7.5	8.9	0.9	-12.2	1.5	-1.1	1.3	2.4	-10.8	-4.3	6.5	8.5	-1.5
Kapuskasing	-0.8		-3.8	4.5	8.5	-0.7	-14.7	14.4	-3.9	26.2	0.6	-7.6	9.3	-7.2	-19.8	-9.2
Kirkland Lake	-0.7		3.6	13.4	2.0	4.8	-24.7	1.0	0.0	16.1	3.4	-16.7	24.7	5.9	-7.4	-5.0
Manitowlin Island	2.3		1.2	4.1	3.1	2.8	-10.7	7.2	20.9	5.1	1.5	-10.2	1.8	10.8	6.8	-0.3
Moosonee	0.9		3.4	10.2	-5.6	12.2	-12.2	-4.4	0.4	3.9	4.4	-0.1	-7.9	2.8	9.4	1.5
New Liskeard	0.4		2.3	6.4	8.7	4.6	-21.3	-1.4	2.5	2.6	7.0	-8.4	-4.1	5.3	6.5	-1.5
North Bay	0.3		0.2	8.5	5.2	7.3	-21.1	3.9	16.5	4.8	6.4	-11.0	-3.7	-4.1	2.4	-6.3
Sault Ste. Marie	1.3		0.0	1.3	-3.1	4.0	-0.7	0.1	0.6	4.9	3.9	-0.7	0.7	7.2	6.7	3.0
Sturgeon Falls	-1.0		-2.7	5.5	-1.7	1.3	-26.1	10.7	2.8	4.3	-1.5	-6.0	-3.7	3.1	14.2	-0.1
Subsury	-4.1		1.6	-0.9	0.0	2.1	-19.7	-0.5	2.7	-4.3	-5.8	-17.6	-12.2	5.8	-11.5	-8.0
Timmins	0.1		1.0	3.6	10.6	5.1	-27.4	-4.6	2.1	4.0	2.7	-10.1	7.1	16.6	7.7	2.2
Wawa	1.1		-6.4	11.5	6.9	-5.3	-23.9	1.3	8.0	-3.0	8.6	-6.1	0.0	21.6	12.6	5.8

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

Table 4:- Year to Year Change in Wholesale and Retail
Prices of Selected Fresh Vegetable Items

	Wholesale (Toronto Food Terminal)			Retail (Three-Store Average)*		
	July 2/81	July 7/82	% Change	July 7/81	July 7/82	% Change
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	%
nt. Cabbage (ea.)	.25	.43	72.0	.79	.98	24.1
nt. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.52	.42	-19.2	1.23	.95	-22.8
S. Broccoli (bunch)	.72	.56	-22.2	1.31	1.02	-22.1
S. Celery (ea.)	.87	.62	-28.7	1.35	1.12	-17.0
S. Cucumber (ea.)	.40	.27	-32.5	.65	.51	-21.5
S. Lettuce (head)	.36	.51	41.7	.74	.78	5.4
S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.38	.37	-2.6	.79	.95	20.3
nt. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.75	.39	-48.0	1.38	.95	-31.1
E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	2.10	1.20	-42.9	2.98	2.98	0.0
S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.54	.58	7.4	.98	.95	-3.1
S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.33	.58	75.8	.95	1.19	25.3
	<u>Aug 5/81</u>	<u>Aug. 4/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Aug. 5/81</u>	<u>Aug. 4/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>
t. Cabbage (ea.)	.20	.51	155.0	.55	.75	36.4
t. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.56	.45	-19.6	.98	.85	-13.3
S. Broccoli (bunch)	.78	.83	6.4	1.35	1.28	-5.2
S. Celery (ea.)	.54	.37	-31.5	.78	.79	1.3
S. Cucumbers (ea.)	.13	.47	261.5	.33	.52	57.6
S. Lettuce (head)	.47	.54	14.9	.68	.52	-23.5
S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.38	.25	-34.2	.60	.65	8.3
nt. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.65	.37	-43.1	1.35	.85	-37.0
E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.75	1.20	-31.4	2.65	1.98	-25.3
S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.58	.56	-3.4	.98	.98	0.0
S. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.55	.58	5.5	.82	.99	20.7
	<u>Sept.3/81</u>	<u>Sept.2/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Sept.3/81</u>	<u>Sept.2/82</u>	<u>% Change</u>
r. Cabbage (ea.)	.23	.41	78.3	.48	.59	22.9
r. Carrots (2 lbs.)	.25	.27	48.0	.68	.69	1.5
S. Lettuce (head)	.50	.25	-50.0	.91	.48	-47.3
S. Green Beans (1 lb.)	.28	.50	78.6	.68	.85	25.0
r. Cooking Onions (2 lbs.)	.24	.18	-25.0	.78	.69	-11.5
E.I. Potatoes (10 lbs.)	1.30	.95	-26.9	1.88	1.52	-19.1
S. Spinach (10 oz.)	.58	.60	3.4	.98	.98	0.0
n. Tomatoes (1 lb.)	.50	.30	-40.0	.63	.83	31.7

pecials are included in the three store average.

WAREHOUSE STORE SURVEY

In March, 1982 a special survey was undertaken to determine the difference between warehouse and regular supermarket prices. Warehouse stores, operating with discount prices and less frills, have recently opened up in several Ontario centres over the past year or so.

The survey compared the price of our monitored basket of 72 items* in the regular and warehouse stores of three major supermarket chains in Ottawa. The March results showed that the average price of this basket was 16 percent lower in the warehouse stores than in the regular stores. This number ranged from 15.8 percent to 16.6 percent in individual chains.

This survey was repeated on September 2, 1982 in the same Ottawa stores. The results showed that the price of our basket was 9 percent lower in the warehouse stores than in the regular stores. This number ranged from 7.5 percent to 11.5 percent when individual chains were considered.

* Where identical products were not available, items were substituted to match as closely as possible.

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Monitoring	i
Methodology	ii

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

Report #34



Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



December 1982

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #34

DECEMBER 1982

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

December 1982

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
CHRISTMAS DINNER	9
FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR FOOD PRICES IN 1983	11
APPENDICES	12

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: Sept. 3, 1981 to Sept. 2, 1982 Dec. 3, 1981 to Dec. 2, 1982 Sept. 2, 1982 to Oct. 7, 1982 Oct. 7, 1982 to Nov. 4, 1982 Nov. 4, 1982 to Dec. 2, 1982 Sept. 2, 1982 to Dec. 2, 1982	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: December 3, 1981; September 2, 1982, and December 2, 1982	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Mar. 4, 1982 to June 3, 1982 June 3, 1982 to Sept. 2, 1982 Sept. 2, 1982 to Dec. 2, 1982	7
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: Sept. 2, 1982 to Dec. 2, 1982	8
4. Christmas Dinner Year to Year Comparison	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 0.3 per cent during the quarter September 2, 1982 and December 2, 1982.

Monthly comparisons show that total prices rose by 2.5 per cent between September 2, 1982 and October 7, 1982. Total prices declined by 1.3 per cent between October 7, 1982 and November 4, 1982 and by 1.0 per cent between November 4, 1982 and December 2, 1982.

The moderate increase of 0.3 per cent over the quarter reflected price decreases in the following categories: beverages (1.8 per cent), dry groceries (3.0 per cent), beef (7.0 per cent), pork (3.8 per cent) and poultry (8.0 per cent). Lamb decreased by 2.6 per cent over the last month of the quarter. These decreases had an offsetting effect on increases in other categories.

The dairy and eggs category increased by 5.2 per cent due to increases in the price of milk and cheese. Retail fluid milk price increases followed October 18 increases at the farm and dairy levels. The August 1, 1982 increase in the price of industrial milk has resulted in higher prices for cheese and powdered milk.

The 7.1 per cent increase in the canned vegetables category was attributable to increased processing, distribution and retailing costs.

The 8.6 per cent increase in the fresh fruit and vegetables category was largely due to lifting of September specials and a return to higher regular prices on some vegetable items.

The oils and fats category registered an increase of 3.2 per cent, mainly as a result of higher processing, distributing and retailing costs of fat and oil products.

The 2.1 per cent increase in the jams and syrups category was largely due to a 3.1 per cent increase in the price of jam.

The 'other groceries' category showed an increase of 8.9 per cent due to lifting of September specials on some items and an increase in the price of ketchup.

The beef, pork and poultry categories showed substantial decreases as a result of specials on many cuts and price reductions on others.

Between December 3, 1981 and December 2, 1982 the total price of the 72 items monitored in Toronto rose by an annual rate of 14.4 per cent. This relatively high annual rate of increase reflects the fact that prices during December 1981 - the base for the annual figure - were low because of the retail price war in Toronto.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison Sept. 2/82 to Dec. 2/82 % Change
		Sept. 3/81 to Sept. 2/82 % Change	Dec. 3/81 to Dec. 2/82 % Change	Sept. 2/82 to Oct. 7/82 % Change	Oct. 7/82 to Nov. 4/82 % Change	Nov. 4/82 to Dec. 2/82 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	3.0	18.0	1.9	3.2	0.1	5.2
Cereals and Bread	7	12.6	17.5	1.0	-2.2	1.6	0.4
Beverages	5	8.1	14.3	2.2	-0.1	-3.9	-1.8
Canned Fruits and Vegetables							
Canned Fruits	2	9.8	21.0	1.2	1.2	-2.0	0.4
Canned Vegetables	4	20.9	24.4	2.3	4.0	0.7	7.1
Canned Juices	4	8.8	16.0	4.2	-2.2	-1.4	0.5
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-7.0	7.5	-1.2	3.6	6.0	8.6
Dry Groceries	7	1.9	16.4	3.8	-3.8	-2.9	-3.0
Oils and Fats	4	10.6	19.0	3.0	-1.1	1.2	3.2
Jams and Syrups	3	17.9	22.1	0.0	0.2	1.9	2.1
Other Groceries	6	1.2	27.8	4.7	-1.2	5.4	8.9
Meats							
Beef	6	-0.2	3.9	1.0	-5.1	-3.0	-7.0
Lamb (frozen)	1	14.5	-7.7	2.7	0.4	-2.6	0.4
Pork	5	12.2	14.2	6.0	-1.1	-8.2	-3.8
Poultry	3	-3.6	1.5	4.8	-12.1	0.0	-8.0
Total	72	5.8	14.4	2.5	-1.3	-1.0	0.3

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on December 2, 1982 were lower than Toronto in six Southern Ontario communities. The price spread was unchanged in one community and narrowed in one other. However, the spread widened in five other communities often reflecting the fact that prices in these communities improved in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The price differential between Toronto and eight Northwestern Ontario communities has narrowed since the last quarter, reflecting price decreases in these communities. The differential widened in the remaining three Northwestern centres as prices in these communities increased more than Toronto prices.

Northeastern Ontario

Food prices were lower than Toronto in four Northeastern Ontario communities. The price spread between Toronto and sixteen Northeastern Ontario communities narrowed as a result of a slight increase in Toronto prices coupled with price declines in these communities since last quarter. The price differential between Toronto and each of the two remaining communities widened, but this meant a decline in total prices in one community (North Bay) and a price increase in the other (Sault Ste. Marie).

A comparison of prices in Toronto and all other communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto
and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Dec. 3/81 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 2/82 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 2/82 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.7	-0.3	-0.3
Kingston	2.7	0.4	0.9
London	0.0	0.2	-1.2
Ottawa	4.7	-7.3	-8.4
Owen Sound	0.6	-1.9	-3.1
Peterborough	-0.2	-1.4	-1.1
Windsor	1.8	-0.3	-0.5
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	17.4	8.7	6.7
Dryden	11.6	5.3	2.2
Fort Frances	14.6	5.2	0.7
Geraldton	14.1	2.0	3.4
Ignace	12.4	5.5	4.6
Kenora	10.3	2.8	2.5
Marathon	16.4	8.9	8.1
Rainy River	11.9	6.3	7.6
Red Lake	15.5	8.3	6.6
Sioux Lookout	16.0	7.5	7.8
Thunder Bay	9.7	4.6	1.7
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	13.7	1.9	0.9
Chapleau	12.5	6.5	5.0
Cochrane	12.3	4.8	2.6
Elliot Lake	9.0	5.3	2.2
Espanola	8.3	0.2	0.0
Hearst	14.9	10.0	3.4
Iroquois Falls	9.9	2.2	1.2
Kapuskasing	10.1	1.9	-1.1
Kirkland Lake	9.2	2.4	-1.1
Manitoulin Island	12.2	7.3	5.5
Moosonee	24.5	14.6	13.2
New Liskeard	9.8	3.3	0.3
North Bay	4.7	1.0	-1.4
Sault Ste. Marie	7.8	5.3	5.8
Sturgeon Falls	5.2	1.6	1.3
Sudbury	0.3	-8.8	-8.6
Timmins	9.3	2.3	1.0
Wawa	14.0	6.4	4.8

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of
Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between September 2, 1982 and December 2, 1982 prices decreased in 26 of the 37 Ontario communities monitored. Prices increased in nine other communities and remained constant in two. Decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Kenora and Sturgeon Falls to 5.7 per cent in Hearst. Increases ranged from 0.3 per cent in Toronto and Hamilton to 1.7 per cent in Geraldton.

In many communities lower prices of meat (especially beef, pork and poultry), dry goods groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, canned fruits and vegetables, beverages, cereal and bread offset the effects of increases in other categories and resulted in declines in total prices since last quarter. Specials were often responsible for lower prices. The price decline in Hearst in part reflects the fact that more specials were featured in the December survey than on other recent survey dates.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period September 2, 1982 to December 2, 1982 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters
for All Centres

Community	Mar. 4/82 to June 3/82 % Difference	June 3/82 to Sept. 2/82 % Difference	Sept. 2/82 to Dec. 2/82 % Difference
Toronto	7.7	-2.1	0.3
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	4.2	0.9	0.3
Kingston	2.8	0.8	0.8
London	-3.7	8.9	-1.1
Ottawa	0.6	-2.2	-0.9
Owen Sound	4.7	-2.1	-1.1
Peterborough	5.7	-1.7	0.6
Windsor	7.4	-0.6	0.0
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.4	0.8	-1.6
Dryden	4.3	-1.6	-2.7
Fort Frances	5.0	-1.5	-4.0
Geraldton	4.4	-4.2	1.7
Ignace	7.0	-3.2	-0.6
Kenora	3.9	-2.6	-0.1
Marathon	3.7	0.5	-0.5
Rainy River	2.9	0.5	1.5
Red Lake	3.6	-0.1	-1.4
Sioux Lookout	3.7	-0.9	0.5
Thunder Bay	5.6	-0.1	-2.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	4.2	-4.2	-0.7
Chapleau	8.9	-0.6	-1.1
Cochrane	2.8	1.1	-1.9
Elliot Lake	4.7	1.4	-2.6
Espanola	3.4	-1.0	0.0
Hearst	5.3	1.5	-5.7
Iroquois Falls	4.7	0.9	-0.7
Kapuskasing	3.7	-0.8	-2.7
Kirkland Lake	4.7	-0.7	-3.2
Manitoulin Island	1.2	2.3	-1.4
Moosonee	4.3	0.9	-1.0
New Liskeard	3.6	0.4	-2.7
North Bay	3.6	0.3	-2.1
Sault Ste. Marie	6.0	1.3	0.7
Sturgeon Falls	6.1	-2.1	-0.1
Sudbury	0.8	-4.1	0.6
Timmins	3.1	0.1	-1.0
Wawa	3.0	1.1	-1.2

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, September 2, 1982 to December 2, 1982* (Percentage Change)

Community	Sept. 2/82 to Dec. 2/82 % Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages & Juices	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro- ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	0.3	5.2	0.4	-1.8	2.0	8.6	-3.0	3.2	2.1	8.9	-7.0	0.4	-3.8	-8.0	-5.4
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	0.3	3.0	0.1	3.0	3.0	4.9	-2.5	1.6	0.0	8.2	-4.0	3.0	-8.7	-2.2	-5.1
Kingston	0.8	3.4	-1.1	-2.5	-4.3	1.9	2.1	4.2	-0.3	0.7	-0.8	9.1	2.4	10.9	2.6
London	-1.1	5.4	-1.6	-4.0	1.0	9.2	-3.4	1.4	4.7	7.1	-9.2	-20.8	-6.7	-1.2	-8.0
Ottawa	-0.9	7.0	-2.3	-0.3	-2.9	-4.8	-4.4	0.4	3.8	3.0	6.9	0.4	-19.0	15.4	-3.4
Owen Sound	-1.1	-0.8	-1.4	3.0	-2.8	4.6	-9.8	3.7	2.3	4.7	-8.2	-3.4	-3.6	9.5	-3.8
Peterborough	0.6	3.2	-0.8	0.9	-4.0	2.7	-4.4	1.4	2.1	4.7	-3.6	0.4	10.2	-9.5	1.0
Windsor	0.0	2.6	-2.6	2.7	0.8	13.0	-8.7	-2.1	-0.8	9.7	-0.5	7.3	-3.8	-14.0	-3.0
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	-1.6	2.8	2.6	-2.9	-4.3	-8.3	-1.6	6.6	2.3	1.4	-7.3	5.0	-5.4	2.6	-4.4
Dryden	-2.7	2.3	1.1	-6.8	0.6	-11.8	-0.5	1.6	1.3	6.1	-6.9	-6.3	-11.7	2.6	-7.4
Fort Frances	-4.0	3.0	1.3	1.3	-8.4	-6.2	-7.3	-2.0	-0.5	-5.0	-2.2	1.4	-16.8	-19.3	-10.0
Geraldton	1.7	4.0	2.7	1.9	3.0	-3.6	-3.0	6.9	1.3	4.1	7.5	-3.1	8.6	0.8	6.2
Ignace	-0.6	4.5	2.0	2.1	3.3	5.3	-13.5	6.9	1.5	2.7	4.7	0.0	-18.6	-0.5	-5.5
Kenora	-0.1	3.1	-0.2	-1.5	-2.2	1.1	1.0	8.7	-1.0	4.8	-9.6	6.5	-2.5	6.6	-3.5
Marathon	-0.5	5.0	1.4	-5.5	-6.0	-7.8	1.8	-1.2	-1.3	1.8	-5.0	-8.1	14.2	-3.9	1.8
Rainy River	1.5	4.1	2.2	1.3	4.8	23.0	2.4	5.0	2.0	0.5	-6.8	0.0	9.1	-2.0	-6.4
Red Lake	-1.4	-1.6	-1.1	-5.3	3.2	1.6	-1.7	-8.3	3.0	-9.1	-11.0	21.7	9.6	3.6	1.2
Sioux Lookout	0.5	9.0	3.5	-4.7	-0.6	11.1	5.5	-1.0	1.0	-3.6	-6.1	-6.6	-1.3	-5.1	-4.3
Thunder Bay	-2.6	-2.4	-2.0	3.1	-5.1	5.0	3.4	-7.6	-3.1	-8.6	-2.7	-3.0	-9.9	-4.8	-5.8
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	-0.7	-1.7	0.8	-0.7	1.9	-3.9	3.2	0.9	3.6	17.3	0.7	11.6	-22.9	-2.3	-8.0
Chapleau	-1.1	4.8	-0.1	0.1	2.1	-7.3	-8.0	7.6	-1.3	4.5	-12.6	11.0	1.5	-1.0	-4.1
Cochrane	-1.9	1.4	-0.2	-2.1	3.3	-7.2	0.9	2.2	0.0	4.7	-6.5	-6.2	-10.0	-5.6	-7.6
Elliot Lake	-2.6	3.0	-1.1	3.6	4.0	-8.2	-6.9	0.0	2.1	3.2	-10.4	0.0	-9.7	-11.9	-9.7
Espanola	0.0	2.4	0.2	-7.9	4.7	-0.9	-6.8	3.7	1.6	4.1	6.7	1.1	-1.5	-3.3	1.8
Hearst	-5.7	2.9	2.9	-7.0	-0.5	-29.9	-10.3	-3.1	-0.2	0.8	-12.2	16.7	-4.4	-5.3	-6.8
Iroquois Falls	-0.7	-1.4	-0.3	-8.8	6.5	-7.5	3.2	2.0	4.8	4.1	4.1	20.2	-7.3	-7.0	-1.0
Kapuskasing	-3.2	8.0	-7.0	-4.9	6.9	-10.0	-19.3	7.5	-4.4	-9.4	3.7	9.5	-12.1	26.6	0.6
Kirkland Lake	-2.7	2.0	-10.9	-6.4	1.7	-4.0	-14.0	5.0	1.1	4.1	-5.0	14.6	9.5	15.5	-3.2
Manitowlin Island	-0.3	2.7	-7.9	-7.9	5.3	-15.7	-8.4	0.1	2.8	2.3	4.2	0.0	0.6	1.3	2.2
Noosoness	-1.0	3.4	-3.0	0.3	-2.0	-7.4	12.4	5.0	7.1	1.0	-8.8	-7.7	-6.9	-10.9	-8.4
New Liskeard	-2.7	3.0	-4.7	-5.2	-0.1	2.2	-5.1	2.2	2.1	1.1	-11.6	23.6	-8.5	-6.7	-7.3
North Bay	-2.1	4.1	-2.6	-2.5	-3.9	0.1	-7.3	2.1	1.1	2.3	-3.3	0.4	-8.5	-4.5	-5.1
Sault Ste. Marie	0.7	3.6	14.7	-3.0	-1.7	-26.6	0.8	20.8	5.6	20.9	-7.8	7.0	2.5	-12.4	-3.8
Sturgeon Falls	-0.1	11.4	5.4	-2.1	3.5	1.4	-4.7	4.2	1.6	-0.1	-8.8	6.2	0.0	-21.8	-6.2
Sudbury	0.6	3.6	3.6	-1.9	2.5	-5.5	4.5	-11.2	3.7	13.7	-0.7	4.2	-6.2	2.6	-2.2
Timmins	-1.0	3.0	-1.7	-4.0	0.9	8.0	-9.6	4.0	4.1	4.4	-7.5	7.7	-3.3	-1.5	-4.0
Wawa	-1.2	5.0	-8.5	-5.0	9.8	-2.8	-7.6	-2.9	12.6	2.8	0.1	13.6	-8.1	-2.2	-2.3

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

*This depicts a quarterly change.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The estimated cost of a Christmas dinner for four people is compared between December 1981 and December 1982 in Table 4. This includes a survey of baking needs for the same period and is based on a Toronto 3-store average.

Over the year some of the major food chains have introduced bulk foods. Some items which are included in the "baking needs" portion can be purchased in bulk. Table 4, therefore, includes a column comparing conventional prices to bulk prices and showing the reductions which the substitution of bulk prices generates.

Table 4: Christmas Dinner, Year to Year Comparison

	December		
	1981	1982	% Change
<u>DINNER</u>			
Mushroom Soup - 2 tins	\$.76	\$ 1.06	
Garden Cocktail - 28 oz.	.85	.95	
Turkey Grade A Frozen - 12 lb.	13.68	15.08	
Cranberry Sauce - 14 oz.	.84	1.12	
Stuffing Mix - Turkey - 8 oz.	1.05	1.29	
Bread Loaf	.56	.56	
Yams - 1 lb.	.44	.32	
Greenbeans Fresh - 1 lb.	1.48	.85	
Broccoli - bunch	1.21	.95	
Christmas Plum Pudding - 15 oz.	2.89	3.29	
Coffee - 1 lb. bag	2.49	2.89	
2% Milk - Quart	.63	.86	
Wine - Ontario	3.85	4.85	
Dinner - Total	\$30.73	\$34.07	10.9%
			% Change
			Reg. Bulk*
			Prices Subs.
<u>BAKING NEEDS</u>			
Nuts:			Bulk*
Raisins - 15 oz.	\$ 2.49	\$ 2.52	\$ 1.46
Almonds Sliced - 100 gr.	1.83	1.51	.88
Walnuts Pieces - 100 gr.	1.27	1.19	.79
Butter - 1 lb.	2.07	2.05	2.05
Candied Fruits:			
Mixed Peel Diced - 8 oz.	1.24	1.49	.59
Cherries Red & Green - 8 oz.	2.39	2.49	1.25
Flour - 2.5 kg.	2.19	2.39	1.73
Sugar Granulated - 2 kg.	1.39	1.66	1.66
Spices:			
Ginger ground - 32 gr.	.95	1.11	.22
Allspice ground - 35 gr.	1.32	1.41	.34
Cinnamon ground - 32 gr.	.96	1.14	.19
Brandy: Ontario - 13 oz.	5.55	6.35	6.35
Eggs: Large - dozen	1.22	1.07	1.07
Baking - Total	24.87	26.38	18.58
TOTAL (Dinner + Baking)	56.60	60.45	52.65
			6.1% -25.3%
			6.8% -7.0%

Note: Specials are included in 3-store average.

*Price of bulk item are substituted where possible.

FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR FOOD PRICES IN 1983

According to Agriculture Canada's forecast food prices are expected to increase at an annual rate of 6 to 8 per cent in 1983.

This forecast is based on the assumption that the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar will increase only slightly in 1983. It reflects expectations of slower oil price and wage increases, a gradual decline in interest rates starting in the second quarter of 1983 and a persistent slow growth of farm commodity prices and imported food prices.

The Retail Council of Canada expects grocery bills to rise by 6.5 to 8.5 per cent in 1983. The underlying assumptions are that the Federal government's 6 and 5 per cent guidelines should result in lower labour costs; the U.S. grain surplus should help keep prices down and resulting lower feed costs should translate into moderate meat price increases.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA24N

ee

- F56

Report #35



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program

March 1983



FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #35

MARCH 1983

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

March 1983

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	3
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	5
APPENDICES	7

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
Dec. 3, 1981 to Dec. 2, 1982	
Mar. 4, 1982 to Mar. 3, 1983	
Dec. 2, 1982 to Jan. 6, 1983	
Jan. 6, 1983 to Feb. 3, 1983	
Feb. 3, 1983 to Mar. 3, 1983	
Dec. 2, 1982 to Mar. 3, 1983	2
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
Mar. 4, 1982, Dec. 2, 1982 and March 3, 1983	4
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
June 3, 1982 to Sept. 2, 1982	
Sept. 2, 1982 to Dec. 2, 1982	
Dec. 2, 1982 to Mar. 3, 1983	6
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres:	
Dec. 2, 1982 to Mar. 3, 1983	7

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 1.2 per cent during the quarter December 2, 1982 to March 3, 1983.

Monthly comparisons show that total prices declined by 1.4 per cent between December 2, 1982 and January 6, 1983. Total prices rose by 2.0 per cent between January 6, 1983 and February 3, 1983 and by 0.6 per cent between February 3, 1983 and March 3, 1983.

The 1.2 per cent increase over the quarter reflected price increases in all categories except cereal and bread, canned vegetables, dry groceries and other groceries. The dairy and eggs category increased by 1.1 per cent largely due to increases in the price of butter, cheese and skim milk powder. The increase in the price of industrial milk set by the Federal Government for January 1, 1983, is continuing to work its way into higher prices for dairy products.

The beverages category increased by 4.8 per cent due to an increase in the price of coffee which reflected a return to regular prices from a December special.

The canned fruits category registered an increase of 3.2 per cent, mainly as a result of a 7.3 per cent increase in the price of fruit cocktail. The oils and fats category increased by 1.3 per cent mainly as a result of increases in the price of margarine and shortening which reflected higher processing, distributing and retailing costs of fats and oil products.

The 1.1 per cent increase in the jams and syrups category was largely due to a 1.6 per cent increase in the price of jam.

The 4.9 per cent increase in the price of beef reflect higher steer prices in Toronto with effect from January.

The pork category increased by 2.7 per cent. There were two major contributing factors: prospects of continued higher export demand because of the January outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Denmark; and a temporary disruption in hog marketing in the U.S. due to severe winter conditions.

The 1.6 per cent increase in the poultry category was largely due to lifting of December specials on turkey.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto.

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison				Quarterly Comparison
		Dec. 3/81 to Dec. 2/82 % Change	Mar. 4/82 to Mar. 3/83 % Change	Dec. 2/82 to Jan. 6/83 % Change	Jan. 6/83 to Feb. 3/83 % Change	Feb. 3/83 to Mar. 3/83 % Change	Dec. 2/82 to Mar. 3/83 % Change		
Dairy and Eggs	5	18.0	12.6	-2.9	3.0	1.1	1.1		
Cereals and Bread	7	17.5	8.0	-1.8	-1.6	2.9	-0.5		
Beverages	5	14.3	10.6	5.6	-4.3	3.7	4.8		
Canned Fruits and Vegetables									
Canned Fruits	2	21.0	26.7	4.4	0.8	-0.4	3.2		
Canned Vegetables	4	24.4	10.2	0.7	1.4	-3.1	-1.1		
Canned Juices	4	16.0	15.3	-2.1	5.1	-1.9	0.8		
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	7.5	-14.1	-8.5	8.5	1.5	0.8		
Dry Groceries	7	16.4	2.6	-6.5	7.2	-2.1	-1.9		
Oils and Fats	4	19.0	12.7	1.6	-0.4	0.1	1.3		
Jams and Syrups	3	22.1	11.5	-6.3	7.9	0.0	1.1		
Other Groceries	6	27.8	8.5	-0.9	-10.3	8.4	-3.7		
Meats									
Beef	6	3.9	-4.9	1.0	3.7	0.2	4.9		
Lamb (Frozen)	1	-7.7	10.2	0.0	1.5	1.1	2.7		
Pork	5	14.2	24.2	-3.3	10.8	-5.1	1.6		
Poultry	3	1.5	-4.3	1.5	0.9	-1.9	0.4		
Total	72	14.4	6.9	-1.4	2.0	0.6	1.2		

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on March 3, 1983 were lower than Toronto in six Southern Ontario communities. The spread narrowed in three communities and widened in four others often reflecting the fact that prices in these communities improved in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The price differential between Toronto and nine Northwestern Ontario communities has narrowed since the last quarter reflecting price decreases in these communities. The spread widened in two other communities although this reflected a price improvement in one of these communities in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Food prices were lower than Toronto in six Northeastern Ontario communities. The price spread between Toronto and eleven Northeastern Ontario communities narrowed since last quarter. The differential widened in six other communities although this meant a decline in total prices in two of these communities.

A comparison of prices in Toronto and all other communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Mar. 4/82 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 2/82 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 3/83 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.0	-0.3	1.0
Kingston	2.1	0.9	-1.5
London	0.6	-1.2	-1.1
Ottawa	-0.7	-8.4	-4.0
Owen Sound	0.9	-3.1	-4.3
Peterborough	0.1	-1.1	-0.4
Windsor	-1.6	-0.5	-2.3
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	11.0	6.7	5.1
Dryden	8.1	2.2	1.0
Fort Frances	7.2	0.7	3.4
Geraldton	7.5	3.4	3.1
Ignace	7.3	4.6	1.4
Kenora	7.1	2.5	0.8
Marathon	10.2	8.1	6.6
Rainy River	8.4	7.6	6.1
Red Lake	10.3	6.6	5.7
Sioux Lookout	9.9	7.8	4.4
Thunder Bay	4.5	1.7	-2.1
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	8.1	0.9	0.1
Chapleau	3.8	5.0	2.6
Cochrane	6.3	2.6	1.5
Elliot Lake	4.6	2.2	0.5
Espanola	3.3	0.0	-0.9
Hearst	8.5	3.4	3.6
Iroquois Falls	1.9	1.2	-0.8
Kapuskasing	4.5	-1.1	1.0
Kirkland Lake	3.9	-1.1	1.7
Manitoulin Island	9.3	5.5	7.2
Moosonee	14.9	13.2	13.1
New Liskeard	4.7	0.3	2.2
North Bay	2.5	-1.4	-0.3
Sault Ste. Marie	1.9	5.8	3.5
Sturgeon Falls	2.0	1.3	-1.6
Sudbury	-0.6	-8.6	-8.6
Timmins	4.5	1.0	-0.1
Wawa	7.7	4.8	2.4

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between December 2, 1982 and March 3, 1983 prices decreased in 16 of the 37 Ontario communities and remained constant in two. Decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Owen Sound to 2.6 per cent in Thunder Bay. Increases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Cochrane to 6.0 per cent in Ottawa.

In many communities higher prices of meat (especially pork, lamb and beef), oils and fats, jams and syrups, cereals and bread and beverages, offset decreases in other categories and resulted in increases in total prices since last quarter.

Over the past year prices in the regular stores monitored in Ottawa had declined substantially, mostly as a result of increased competition among the major food chains possibly brought on by the opening of warehouse stores there. The significant increase in Ottawa food prices over the last quarter might be attributed to the easing up of this retail price competition and the effects of moving from lower base prices set during its duration.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage change by category for the period December 2, 1982 and March 3, 1983 is available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	June 3/82 to Sept. 2/82 % Difference	Sept. 2/82 to Dec. 2/82 % Difference	Dec. 2/82 to Mar. 3/83 % Difference
Toronto	2.1	0.3	1.2
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.9	0.3	2.5
Kingston	0.8	0.8	-1.3
London	8.9	-1.1	1.3
Ottawa	-2.2	-0.9	6.0
Owen Sound	-2.1	-1.1	-0.1
Peterborough	-1.7	0.6	1.8
Windsor	-0.6	0.0	-0.7
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.8	-1.6	-0.4
Dryden	-1.6	-2.7	0.0
Fort Frances	-1.5	-4.0	3.8
Geraldton	-4.2	1.7	0.9
Ignace	-3.2	-0.6	-1.9
Kenora	-2.6	-0.1	-0.6
Marathon	0.5	-0.5	-0.3
Rainy River	0.5	1.5	-0.3
Red Lake	-0.1	-1.4	0.4
Sioux Lookout	-0.9	0.5	-2.0
Thunder Bay	-0.1	-2.6	-2.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-4.2	-0.7	0.4
Chapleau	-0.6	-1.1	-1.2
Cochrane	1.1	-1.9	0.1
Elliot Lake	1.4	-2.6	-0.6
Espanola	-1.0	0.0	0.2
Hearst	1.5	-5.7	1.4
Iroquois Falls	0.9	-0.7	-0.9
Kapuskasing	-0.8	-2.7	3.3
Kirkland Lake	-0.7	-3.2	4.1
Manitoulin Island	2.3	-1.4	2.8
Moosonee	0.9	-1.0	1.1
New Liskeard	0.4	-2.7	3.1
North Bay	0.3	-2.1	2.3
Sault Ste. Marie	1.3	0.7	-1.0
Sturgeon Falls	-2.1	-0.1	-1.8
Sudbury	-4.1	0.6	1.1
Timmins	0.1	-1.0	0.0
Wawa	1.1	-1.2	-1.1

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

Dec. 2/82 to Mar. 3/83 % Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro- ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Community														
Toronto	1.2	1.1	-0.5	4.8	0.9	0.8	-1.9	1.3	-3.7	4.9	2.7	1.6	0.4	2.9
S. ONTARIO														
Hamilton	2.5	-0.5	0.8	2.9	-3.4	3.3	-4.1	3.3	-2.5	6.7	6.9	17.5	1.3	10.2
Kingsron	-1.3	3.0	-8.0	4.8	5.3	-6.7	-10.2	2.8	-3.9	2.6	-3.5	-6.1	2.2	-1.4
London	1.3	-1.5	2.8	3.3	0.4	4.7	-4.6	2.7	-4.5	4.5	26.8	3.0	-3.5	4.1
Ottawa	6.0	-4.1	11.1	5.5	7.4	14.8	1.1	4.7	-7.2	9.5	-4.3	30.1	-2.8	13.9
Owen Sound	-0.1	1.9	2.1	-3.6	-3.6	2.5	8.1	3.7	-6.1	6.4	1.2	3.5	-2.6	3.6
Peterborough	1.8	-0.3	-2.7	5.1	3.5	1.6	2.3	2.2	-4.6	6.2	2.6	2.1	5.5	4.2
Windsor	-0.7	-5.1	3.9	0.9	-0.9	1.2	-7.3	5.9	-3.1	-3.8	-15.3	2.1	9.2	-0.9
N.W. ONTARIO														
Atikokan	-0.4	0.5	6.2	2.3	-1.4	-11.5	-1.4	2.2	4.8	0.2	1.0	-4.2	-7.6	-2.4
Dryden	0.0	0.6	1.7	-5.0	-0.1	0.7	-0.8	0.4	-2.1	0.5	-15.4	7.7	0.2	1.8
Fort Frances	3.8	0.5	2.9	3.4	6.0	12.8	3.3	-27.5	3.5	7.6	1.7	10.8	17.3	9.5
Geraldton	0.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	5.9	-1.6	8.9	-4.8	-6.2	-0.3	4.7	-10.5	-1.4	-3.9
Ignace	-1.9	-1.7	-0.1	-1.4	1.5	-1.3	-1.0	-13.1	0.9	-11.2	10.6	7.7	-11.3	-3.2
Kenora	-0.6	0.1	1.5	2.3	1.5	1.8	-1.7	-5.5	4.3	-7.6	-4.5	0.8	-7.0	-4.2
Marathon	-0.3	1.8	-1.1	-0.4	11.3	0.8	2.0	1.8	-3.5	-18.9	10.3	2.4	1.2	-5.3
Rainy River	-0.3	0.9	0.9	0.8	-1.7	-2.2	1.2	1.2	-0.8	-1.6	0.0	1.2	-7.5	-1.3
Red Lake	0.4	2.5	3.4	7.1	-2.4	2.1	1.0	2.2	-4.6	6.7	-0.1	-2.5	-9.8	-7.4
Sioux Lookout	-2.0	1.1	2.5	3.6	1.5	-1.2	-10.4	2.4	2.8	-13.3	6.2	-9.8	2.5	-8.1
Thunder Bay	-2.6	4.9	3.9	-9.6	7.0	-7.6	-12.9	-2.3	9.1	-4.7	-2.1	-12.3	7.0	-5.9
N.E. ONTARIO														
Blind River	0.4	4.3	-0.1	-2.0	-3.8	8.7	-7.5	10.7	0.6	3.1	0.0	-2.4	-10.1	-0.8
Chapleau	-1.2	-0.1	-2.7	1.6	4.0	2.0	0.9	0.2	-2.9	-4.8	-6.8	-5.9	-7.2	-5.7
Cochrane	0.1	3.0	-1.2	0.2	-4.7	9.9	-7.3	0.6	4.5	2.3	9.2	-0.6	-11.9	0.1
Elliot Lake	-0.6	2.5	3.7	-6.1	-1.6	-1.0	-0.9	4.5	-3.3	-7.0	19.4	5.5	-9.2	-0.6
Espanola	0.2	1.2	3.5	2.3	0.1	-7.0	0.5	0.6	1.2	-4.7	4.5	1.4	-3.9	-1.6
Hearst	1.4	-0.1	2.8	8.3	-0.1	13.5	-3.1	6.0	3.2	8.8	0.0	-8.1	1.1	-5.1
Iroquois Falls	-0.8	1.4	1.7	5.3	6.0	-5.9	-9.9	4.8	-1.8	-7.0	0.0	1.8	-15.9	-4.3
Kapuskasing	-0.2	-0.2	2.0	2.8	-0.2	-2.7	11.0	-0.9	4.6	5.8	-3.7	17.4	-7.0	7.1
Kirkland Lake	4.1	3.2	13.9	2.8	1.2	1.9	-2.0	-1.1	2.7	13.5	-14.7	8.8	4.1	8.1
Manitowlin Island	2.8	1.9	3.3	8.7	4.5	9.9	1.1	-1.3	1.5	-5.8	0.0	8.3	-1.0	0.4
Moosonee	1.1	-4.4	1.8	1.1	2.9	-0.5	-11.8	5.8	3.4	-2.4	76.2	12.7	-0.9	7.6
New Liskeard	3.1	1.4	3.7	6.6	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	4.9	0.8	7.7	0.3	16.2	-6.5	8.2
North Bay	2.3	0.0	3.6	8.4	-1.5	3.3	2.4	1.1	0.6	-6.1	1.7	13.9	7.4	4.2
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.0	-2.7	-9.1	9.3	6.1	17.3	-7.4	0.7	1.1	-15.6	-4.0	1.3	7.3	-22.0
Sturgeon Falls	-1.8	-3.5	-1.1	4.2	-2.0	-2.5	-6.7	-18.6	0.9	1.7	-12.8	2.0	-0.7	0.4
Sudbury	1.1	-5.1	-2.2	-5.8	3.8	-3.1	-11.5	14.0	4.6	-2.1	15.0	10.9	-2.8	10.6
Timmins	0.0	2.2	5.2	-1.2	0.4	-4.6	-3.2	0.9	1.3	-0.6	3.4	5.4	-7.2	-0.1
Wawa	-1.1	-1.1	1.9	-3.0	-3.6	-4.1	0.2	9.5	1.4	-6.4	0.0	-0.4	-1.0	-3.0

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

*This depicts a quarterly change.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA26N
CC
-756

Report #36



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program

June 1983



FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #36

JUNE 1983

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

June 1983

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICES	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
	Mar. 4, 1982 to Mar. 3, 1983	
	June 3, 1982 to June 2, 1983	
	Mar. 3, 1983 to Apr. 7, 1983	
	Apr. 7, 1983 to May 5, 1983	
	May 5, 1983 to June 2, 1983	
	Mar. 3, 1983 to June 2, 1983	3
2.	Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: Dec. 2, 1982, March 3, 1983 and June 2, 1983	5
3.	Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Sept. 2, 1983 to Dec. 2, 1982 Dec. 2, 1982 to Mar. 3, 1983 Mar. 3, 1983 to June 2, 1983	7
3a.	Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: March 3, 1983 to June 2, 1983	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 2.5 per cent during the quarter March 3 to June 2, 1983.

Monthly comparisons show that total prices declined by 0.1 per cent between March 3, 1983 and April 7, 1983. Total prices rose by 1.5 per cent between April 7, 1983 and May 5, 1983 and by 1.1 percent between May 5, 1983 and June 2, 1983.

The 2.5 per cent increase over the quarter reflected price increases in the following categories: cereals and bread, canned vegetables, fresh fruits and vegetables, jams and syrups, other groceries, beef and poultry.

The 3.4 per cent increase in the cereal and bread category reflected higher prices for inputs such as durum wheat, eggs and sugar, as well as rising processing and distribution costs. Some items returned to higher regular prices after the lifting of March specials.

The canned vegetables category registered an increase of 1.8 per cent due to the lifting of March specials on some items in this category.

The 23.9 per cent increase in the fresh fruits and vegetables category contributed substantially to the change in total prices. The sharp price increase in this category reflected a reduction of supplies from Canadian storage and substitution of higher priced imports. Bad weather conditions have reduced U.S. spring crop supplies and made Canadian imports more costly.

The 1.1 per cent increase in the jams and syrups category reflected price increases on all items in this category. This may be attributed to retail sugar price increases, due mainly to the increase in the price of raw sugar on the world market.

The 2.0 per cent increase in the other groceries category reflected the return to regular prices from March specials on some items.

The 15.1 per cent increase in the beef category was largely due to rising slaughter cattle prices coupled with increased demand as a result of the barbecue season.

The poultry category registered an increase of 8.2 per cent due to the lifting of March specials and slightly higher chicken prices which reflected increased demand as a result of the barbecue season.

All other categories showed price decreases mainly due to June specials. The dairy and eggs category registered a price decline of 2.0 per cent mainly because of lower prices for fluid milk which coincided with the introduction of the 4-litre pouch pack replacing the 3 quart bag. Manufactured dairy products rose slightly in response to the April 1 increase in producer support prices.

Retail egg prices increased in response to the April 11 and May 9 increases in producer egg prices by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison		Month to Month Comparison		Quarterly Comparison March 3/83 to June 2/83 % Change
		Mar.4/82 to Mar.3/83 % Change	June 3/82 to June 2/83 % Change	Mar.3/83 to Apr.7/83 % Change	Apr.7/83 to May 5/83 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	12.6	5.9	-4.1	1.1	-2.0
Cereals and Bread	7	8.0	9.8	2.0	0.0	3.4
Beverages	5	10.6	4.3	-5.1	0.1	-4.5
Canned Fruits and Vegetables						
Canned Fruits	2	26.7	12.3	1.9	0.0	0.0
Canned Vegetables	4	10.2	7.5	-1.1	1.1	1.8
Canned Juices	4	15.3	4.9	-2.1	3.9	-1.8
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-14.1	-1.8	7.9	13.9	23.9
Dry Groceries	7	2.6	-8.3	-1.5	-4.7	-2.4
Oils and Fats	4	12.7	4.2	-5.2	5.5	-2.2
Jams and Syrups	3	11.5	7.8	0.6	0.3	1.1
Other Groceries	6	8.5	4.5	3.6	-2.0	2.0
Meats						
Beef	6	-4.9	-1.1	2.2	7.0	15.6
Lamb (frozen)	1	10.2	-7.0	0.0	0.0	-1.5
Pork	5	24.2	-5.8	-0.2	-3.3	-2.8
Poultry	3	-4.3	7.0	8.4	0.8	8.2
Total	72	6.9	1.8	-0.1	1.5	2.5

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on June 2, 1983 were lower than Toronto in all Southern Ontario communities monitored. The spread widened in all communities, reflecting the fact that they improved in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The differential between Toronto and six Northwestern Ontario communities narrowed since the last quarter reflecting price improvements in these communities in relation to Toronto. The spread widened in five other communities although one of these showed an improvement in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Food prices were lower than Toronto in eight Northeastern Ontario communities. The price spread between Toronto and ten Northeastern Ontario communities narrowed since last quarter. The differential widened in eight other communities although this meant an improvement in relation to Toronto in five of these communities.

A comparison of prices in Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	Dec. 2/82 % Difference from Toronto	Mar. 3/83 % Difference from Toronto	June 2/83 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.3	1.0	-2.0
Kingston	0.9	-1.5	-2.3
London	-1.2	-1.1	-2.0
Ottawa	-8.4	-4.0	-6.8
Owen Sound	-3.1	-4.3	-4.9
Peterborough	-1.1	-0.4	-2.5
Windsor	-0.5	-2.3	-2.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	6.7	5.1	2.5
Dryden	2.2	1.0	0.9
Fort Frances	0.7	3.4	4.3
Geraldton	3.4	3.1	2.5
Ignace	4.6	1.4	1.6
Kenora	2.5	0.8	1.2
Marathon	8.1	6.6	3.4
Rainy River	7.6	6.1	5.5
Red Lake	6.6	5.7	4.7
Sioux Lookout	7.8	4.4	5.7
Thunder Bay	1.7	-2.1	-3.4
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.9	0.1	-0.3
Chapleau	5.0	2.6	2.9
Cochrane	2.6	1.5	0.4
Elliot Lake	2.2	0.5	1.7
Espanola	0.0	-0.9	-1.2
Hearst	3.4	3.6	1.4
Iroquois Falls	1.2	-0.8	-0.5
Kapuskasing	-1.1	1.0	-0.3
Kirkland Lake	-1.1	1.7	-2.2
Manitoulin Island	5.5	7.2	5.6
Moosonee	13.2	13.1	9.9
New Liskeard	0.3	2.2	0.5
North Bay	-1.4	-0.3	-1.2
Sault Ste. Marie	5.8	3.5	1.2
Sturgeon Falls	1.3	-1.6	-0.9
Sudbury	-8.6	-8.6	-8.9
Timmins	1.0	-0.1	1.0
Wawa	4.8	2.4	0.5

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between March 3 and June 2, 1983, the total price of the 72 food items monitored decreased in 6 of the 37 Ontario communities and remained constant in one. Decreases ranged from 0.2 per cent in Sault Ste Marie to 1.4 per cent in Kirkland Lake. Increases in the other 30 communities ranged from 0.3 per cent in Hearst to 3.8 per cent in Elliot Lake and Sioux Lookout.

Price increases were largely due to higher prices for fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and beef. Pork prices fell in almost all the cities surveyed.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage change by category for the period March 3 to June 2, 1983 is available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Quarters
for All Centres

	Sept. 2/82 to Dec. 2/82	Dec. 2/82 to Mar. 3/83	March 3/83 to June 2/82
Community	% Difference	% Difference	% Difference
Toronto	0.3	1.2	2.5
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	0.3	2.5	-0.5
Kingston	0.8	-1.3	1.7
London	-1.1	1.3	1.6
Ottawa	-0.9	6.0	-0.5
Owen Sound	-1.1	-0.1	1.9
Peterborough	0.6	1.8	0.4
Windsor	0.0	-0.7	2.2
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-1.6	-0.4	0.0
Dryden	-2.7	0.0	2.5
Fort Frances	-4.0	3.8	3.4
Geraldton	1.7	0.9	1.9
Ignace	-0.6	-1.9	2.8
Kenora	-0.1	-0.6	2.9
Marathon	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4
Rainy River	1.5	-0.3	2.0
Red Lake	-1.4	0.4	1.6
Sioux Lookout	0.5	-2.0	3.8
Thunder Bay	-2.6	-2.6	1.2
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-0.7	0.4	2.2
Chapleau	-1.1	-1.2	2.9
Cochrane	-1.9	0.1	1.4
Elliot Lake	-2.6	-0.6	3.8
Espanola	0.0	0.2	2.2
Hearst	-5.7	1.4	0.3
Iroquois Falls	-0.7	-0.9	2.9
Kapuskasing	-2.7	3.3	1.2
Kirkland Lake	-3.2	4.1	-1.4
Manitoulin Island	-1.4	2.8	1.0
Moosonee	-1.0	1.1	-0.3
New Liskeard	-2.7	3.1	0.8
North Bay	-2.1	2.3	1.5
Sault Ste. Marie	0.7	-1.0	-0.2
Sturgeon Falls	-0.1	-1.8	3.3
Sudbury	0.6	1.1	2.1
Timmins	-1.0	0.0	3.7
Wawa	-1.2	-1.1	0.7

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, March 3, 1983 to June 2, 1983 (Percentage Change)

Community	Mar. 3/83 to June 3/83 % Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro- ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro- ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	2.5	-2.0	3.4	-4.5	-0.5	23.9	-2.4	-2.2	1.1	2.0	15.6	-1.5	-2.8	8.2	6.4
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	-0.5	-3.5	1.7	-4.6	2.7	22.2	-6.2	-0.2	4.4	-2.5	9.9	-7.8	-16.5	1.3	-3.2
Kingston	1.7	-7.3	11.4	-0.4	2.8	26.6	2.3	-5.4	2.5	4.8	3.8	-0.3	-9.3	9.4	-0.7
London	1.6	1.6	1.8	-5.0	1.3	14.8	-2.6	-2.0	0.9	5.6	13.5	2.6	-11.3	7.9	2.3
Ottawa	-0.5	-1.3	-1.3	-1.8	-10.3	24.8	-10.3	-7.7	1.9	1.7	-8.7	8.2	1.4	6.3	-1.8
Owen Sound	1.9	0.5	2.2	0.1	7.6	19.7	6.5	-1.6	2.9	0.0	-1.5	1.1	-6.8	2.3	-2.8
Peterborough	0.4	-1.2	9.0	-4.6	2.9	19.1	-0.5	-0.6	0.6	2.4	3.0	-13.6	-11.6	-7.1	-5.2
Windsor	2.2	5.0	0.5	-8.2	-2.8	20.2	9.2	-1.3	-0.3	-3.5	13.2	16.1	-9.4	14.2	4.6
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	0.0	-2.7	-3.8	-4.9	3.2	22.1	5.9	-3.4	0.3	-2.7	-2.8	1.3	-2.8	1.8	-1.8
Dryden	2.5	-0.7	2.2	4.2	-1.8	26.3	0.3	-3.8	-1.1	1.0	8.4	19.0	-6.7	0.9	2.1
Fort Frances	3.4	2.4	10.9	4.1	0.9	-1.4	7.7	21.4	0.0	7.7	15.2	0.0	-11.2	-17.1	0.4
Geraldton	1.9	4.1	2.2	-10.3	0.2	30.0	-10.4	0.6	-14.4	15.2	2.0	0.0	-1.7	1.3	0.2
Ignace	2.8	1.9	4.3	4.3	-0.8	18.4	-4.9	-4.6	0.4	-1.1	11.1	0.0	-2.2	6.8	4.5
Kenora	2.9	2.9	4.1	-5.6	-2.4	20.6	0.4	0.3	0.7	-7.6	20.1	15.4	-2.8	4.4	8.5
Marathon	-0.4	-1.3	0.6	-2.4	-1.6	15.1	-13.1	2.5	1.4	3.0	10.5	2.4	-5.4	-8.2	0.1
Rainy River	0.6	0.6	-2.9	2.3	3.8	24.0	-4.2	-1.6	3.8	2.4	4.5	0.0	-5.8	6.1	0.6
Red Lake	1.6	2.8	-0.4	0.4	-0.2	24.4	-0.5	-0.4	1.9	-0.2	0.5	0.0	-6.5	4.3	-1.6
Sioux Lookout	3.8	6.2	1.0	-1.9	9.3	18.0	3.6	0.8	6.1	-2.9	11.8	-9.7	-4.3	6.0	2.9
Thunder Bay	1.2	0.6	0.6	1.1	-5.5	16.2	3.9	5.2	1.6	9.5	2.0	4.5	-14.9	-2.6	-4.3
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	2.2	0.8	8.2	1.3	-0.8	5.8	-8.1	0.0	0.0	-0.9	4.0	0.0	11.1	9.6	6.6
Chapleau	2.9	13.1	0.2	-0.5	-0.4	15.1	-0.7	-4.9	3.2	4.2	16.0	-12.1	-8.2	-4.4	1.3
Cochrane	1.4	-1.1	4.1	-2.1	-1.8	10.9	6.3	-1.2	2.6	-3.7	-2.8	-6.9	5.3	19.2	2.1
Elliot Lake	3.8	-2.6	1.1	4.2	3.2	21.2	6.8	0.2	2.2	0.9	8.6	3.2	-2.4	18.1	4.8
Espanola	2.2	-0.9	-1.1	0.6	1.0	31.4	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.0	5.2	0.0	-13.5	12.5	-1.6
Hearst	0.3	-1.5	-2.9	-3.1	3.2	14.8	8.8	-7.7	-1.1	-7.3	6.4	-8.7	-4.2	-1.1	0.4
Iroquois Falls	2.9	-0.5	1.8	-2.3	-0.4	36.0	-2.3	1.6	4.5	1.1	15.9	0.0	-15.4	22.5	2.7
Kapuskasing	1.2	-1.9	8.5	2.8	3.8	28.2	-5.6	0.2	2.4	13.4	2.5	-20.0	-21.9	2.2	-8.3
Kirkland Lake	-1.4	-2.3	-0.1	2.9	1.0	21.5	3.4	-2.2	0.8	1.8	-6.0	13.7	-25.3	-5.8	-12.1
Manitowlin Island	1.0	-1.2	-6.6	-0.4	-3.1	16.6	1.2	-4.2	0.4	0.3	4.4	-1.8	4.9	1.0	3.7
Moosonee	-0.3	12.2	2.9	-4.9	-3.4	19.1	-3.5	-10.2	0.3	-1.3	-4.3	-16.5	-6.0	4.3	-5.1
New Liskeard	0.8	0.1	3.1	-8.4	4.7	20.5	-0.5	0.2	0.5	-0.2	3.7	-0.3	-11.9	19.0	-1.0
North Bay	1.5	0.1	2.7	-6.6	7.6	16.2	-1.4	-1.3	1.7	7.1	11.4	-25.1	-5.2	-4.3	0.1
Sault Ste. Marie	-0.2	6.5	13.6	3.3	3.3	10.2	-3.2	-1.9	1.1	-2.0	-0.1	-6.5	-26.5	24.2	-9.1
Sturgeon Falls	3.3	-3.9	1.3	-0.3	5.7	28.3	3.9	12.1	-0.1	9.4	18.8	-11.4	0.5	0.5	0.7
Sudbury	2.1	9.5	9.0	0.9	-3.3	38.7	-3.7	-8.2	0.0	-5.4	4.3	4.7	-14.5	9.3	-2.5
Timmins	3.7	-5.7	0.6	9.7	3.1	22.9	10.4	2.5	1.7	2.3	11.0	-1.6	-11.8	7.8	0.3
Wawa	0.7	13.0	1.1	-3.6	2.7	28.7	-7.9	-7.3	0.2	2.9	4.7	1.5	-20.4	0.2	-5.4

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA23N

cc

- 756

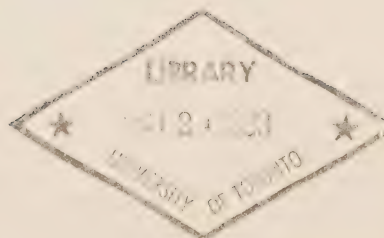
Report #37



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



September 1983

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #37

SEPTEMBER 1983

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

September 1983

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICES	9

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto: June 3, 1982 to June 2, 1983 Sept. 2, 1982 to Sept. 1, 1983 June 2, 1983 to July 7, 1983 July 7, 1983 to Aug. 4, 1983 Aug. 4, 1983 to Sept. 1, 1983 June 2, 1983 to Sept. 1, 1983.....	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario: March 3, 1983, June 2, 1983, and September 1, 1983.....	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres: Dec. 2, 1982 to March 3, 1983 March 3, 1983 to June 2, 1983 June 2, 1983 to September 1, 1983	7
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres: June 2, 1983 to September 1, 1983.....	8

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto increased by 0.5 per cent during the quarter June 2 to September 1, 1983, and increased by 4.6 per cent from a year earlier (Table 1).

Monthly comparisons show that total prices declined by 1.0 per cent between June 2, 1983 and July 7, 1983. Total prices rose by 2.4 per cent between July 7 1983 and August 4, 1983 and declined by 0.9 per cent between August 4, 1983 and September 1, 1983.

Over the quarter significant price increases occurred in the following categories: dairy and eggs, cereals and bread, beverages, canned juices, dry groceries, oils and fats, other groceries and lamb. These increases were partially offset by price decreases in other categories such as canned vegetables, fresh fruits and vegetables, beef, pork and poultry. This resulted in the moderate increase of 0.5 per cent over the quarter.

The dairy and eggs category showed an increase of 4.9 per cent largely due to increases in the price of milk, eggs and manufactured dairy products. Butter increased by 3.0 per cent, cheese increased by 8.2 per cent and skim milk increased by 4.5 per cent largely in response to the Dairy Commission's increase of support price and target returns to producers effective August 1, 1983.

Egg prices rose by 5.3 per cent reflecting the August 8, 1983 and September 12, 1983 increases in producer prices announced by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency.

The cereal and bread category increased by 1.0 per cent reflecting a 5.6 per cent increase in the price of shredded wheat. This was partially due to the July 15, 1983 increase in the price of durum wheat to the millers as well as increased labor and packaging costs.

The 5.8 per cent increase in the beverages category was largely due to the lifting of June specials on coffee and an increase in the regular price of tea.

The canned juices category increased by 7.8 per cent, reflecting the lifting of June specials on some juices and increases in the regular price of garden cocktail.

The dry groceries category increased by 2.1 per cent largely due to increases in the price of pasta, sugar and dried beans.

The increase in retail pasta products reflected the May 15, 1983 increase in the price of durum wheat.

Significant price increases in raw sugar prices on the world market during May and June continued to work its way into retail sugar prices in September.

The oils and fats category increased by 2.7 per cent mainly as a result of increases in the price of oil and shortening.

Drought in the major grain and oil seed producing areas in the U.S. has reduced yields and triggered significant price increases in the retail price of grain and oil seed products.

The 1.9 per cent increase in the other groceries category was mainly due to the lifting of June specials on some items which offset September specials on others.

The 1.5 per cent increase in the lamb category was largely due to the lifting of June specials.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto.

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison	
		June 3/82 to June 2/83	June 2/82 to Sept. 1/83	% Change	June 2/83 to July 7/83	July 7/83 to Aug. 4/83	% Change	June 2/83 to Sept. 1/83	% Change
Dairy and Eggs	5	5.9	9.5		0.1	4.3		4.9	
Cereals and Bread	7	9.8	4.3		0.2	-0.7		1.0	
Beverages	5	4.3	4.0		4.3	-2.8		5.8	
Canned Fruits and Vegetables									
Canned Fruits	2	12.3	4.5		-2.1	0.4		0.8	
Canned Vegetables	4	7.5	3.8		-2.1	1.4		-3.8	
Canned Juices	4	4.9	7.3		3.4	-2.5		7.8	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	-1.8	30.0		-3.0	16.0		-4.1	
Dry Groceries	7	-8.3	-5.2		-1.1	10.2		2.1	
Oils and Fats	4	4.2	5.1		1.5	1.8		2.7	
Jams and Syrups	3	7.8	5.3		0.6	-2.3		0.9	
Other Groceries	6	4.5	9.0		0.7	-1.2		1.9	
Meats									
Beef	6	-1.1	2.5		-6.9	-1.9		-9.2	
Lamb (frozen)	1	-7.0	3.1		1.5	0.0		1.5	
Pork	5	-5.8	-7.6		-5.0	2.4		-2.8	
Poultry	3	7.0	3.0		-3.8	12.4		3.0	
Total	72	1.8	4.6		-1.0	2.4		0.5	

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on September 1, 1983 were lower than Toronto in six of the seven southern Ontario communities monitored. The spread narrowed in four communities and widened in three others since last quarter.

Northwestern Ontario

Food prices were lower than Toronto in four out of eleven Northwestern Ontario communities. The differential between Toronto and six Northwestern Ontario communities narrowed since June 1983, often reflecting price improvements in these communities. The differential widened in five other communities although this meant an improvement in relation to Toronto in three of these communities.

Northeastern Ontario

Food prices were lower than Toronto in nine out of eighteen Northeastern Ontario communities. The differential between Toronto and seven Northeastern Ontario communities narrowed since last quarter. The differential widened in ten other communities and remained stable in one other.

A comparison of prices in Toronto and all other communities monitored can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	March 3/83 % Difference from Toronto	June 2/83 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 1/83 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	1.0	-2.0	-0.6
Kingston	-1.5	-2.3	-2.8
London	-1.1	-2.0	0.2
Ottawa	-4.0	-6.8	-7.0
Owen Sound	-4.3	-4.9	-6.1
Peterborough	-0.4	-2.5	-2.4
Windsor	-2.3	-2.6	-2.1
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	5.1	2.5	2.3
Dryden	1.0	0.9	-1.4
Fort Frances	3.4	4.3	-4.6
Geraldton	3.1	2.5	1.9
Ignace	1.4	1.6	2.1
Kenora	0.8	1.2	-1.4
Marathon	6.6	3.4	5.9
Rainy River	6.1	5.5	4.2
Red Lake	5.7	4.7	2.6
Sioux Lookout	4.4	5.7	4.7
Thunder Bay	-2.1	-3.4	-2.4
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.1	-0.3	-0.8
Chapleau	2.6	2.9	2.9
Cochrane	1.5	0.4	1.8
Elliot Lake	0.5	1.7	-0.2*
Espanola	-0.9	-1.2	-1.0
Hearst	3.6	1.4	2.8
Iroquois Falls	-0.8	-0.5	-1.7
Kapuskasing	1.0	-0.3	2.1
Kirkland Lake	1.7	-2.2	-1.3
Manitoulin Island	7.2	5.6	6.8
Moosonee	13.1	9.9	9.3
New Liskeard	2.2	0.5	0.2
North Bay	-0.3	-1.2	-2.6
Sault Ste. Marie	3.5	1.2	-1.5
Sturgeon Falls	-1.6	-0.9	1.1
Sudbury	-8.6	-8.9	-7.7
Timmins	-0.1	1.0	-0.3
Wawa	2.4	0.5	0.7

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

*Price changes are based on a 2-store average due to the recent closure of a third store originally included in the survey.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between June 2, 1983 and September 1, 1983 the total price of the 72 food items monitored decreased in 14 of the 37 communities monitored. Total prices increased in 19 other communities and remained stable in 2 others. Decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Kingston and Moosonee to 8.0 per cent in Fort Frances. Increases ranged from 0.2 per cent in New Liskeard to 3.0 per cent in Kapuskasing.

Price increases were largely due to higher prices for items in categories such as dairy and eggs, cereals and bread, oils and fats, jams and syrups.

In many communities lower prices of meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, canned fruits and vegetables, dry goods groceries, other groceries and beverages were mainly responsible for reducing prices or moderating price increases. Specials were often responsible for lower prices. The price decline in Fort Frances in part reflected the fact that more specials were featured in the September monitoring than on other recent monitoring dates.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period of June 2 to September 1, 1983 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	Dec.2/83 to March 3/83 % Difference	March 3/83 to June 2/83 % Difference	June 2/83 Sept. 1/83 % Difference
Toronto	1.2	2.5	0.5
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	2.5	-0.5	2.0
Kingston	-1.3	1.7	-0.1
London	1.3	1.6	2.8
Ottawa	6.0	-0.5	0.4
Owen Sound	-0.1	1.9	-0.7
Peterborough	1.8	0.4	0.6
Windsor	-0.7	2.2	1.1
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	-0.4	0.0	0.3
Dryden	0.0	2.5	-1.1
Fort Frances	3.8	3.4	-8.0
Geraldton	0.9	1.9	0.0
Ignace	-1.9	2.8	1.0
Kenora	-0.6	2.9	-2.0
Marathon	-0.3	-0.4	2.9
Rainy River	-0.3	2.0	-0.7
Red Lake	0.4	1.6	-1.5
Sioux Lookout	-2.0	3.8	-0.4
Thunder Bay	-2.6	1.2	1.6
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	0.4	2.2	0.0
Chapleau	-1.2	2.9	0.6
Cochrane	0.1	1.4	1.9
Elliot Lake	-0.6	3.8	-1.4
Espanola	0.2	2.2	0.8*
Hearst	1.4	0.3	1.9
Iroquois Falls	-0.9	2.9	-0.7
Kapuskasing	3.3	1.2	3.0
Kirkland Lake	4.1	-1.4	1.5
Manitoulin Island	2.8	1.0	1.7
Moosonee	1.1	-0.3	-0.1
New Liskeard	3.1	0.8	0.2
North Bay	2.3	1.5	-0.9
Sault Ste. Marie	-1.0	-0.2	-2.1
Sturgeon Falls	-1.8	3.3	2.6
Sudbury	1.1	2.1	1.7
Timmins	0.0	3.7	-0.7
Wawa	-1.1	0.7	0.7

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

*Based on 2-store average due to the recent closure of a third store
originally included in the survey.

Table 3a: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, June 2, 1983 to September 1, 1983 (Percentage Change)

Community	June 3/83 to Sept.1/83 % Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Gro-ceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrups	Other Gro-ceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	0.5	4.9	1.0	5.8	3.4	-4.1	2.1	2.7	0.9	1.9	-9.2	1.5	-2.8	3.0	-4.6
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	2.0	4.6	1.5	5.8	6.9	-8.5	2.8	3.0	0.9	6.9	-6.6	6.3	4.7	3.4	-0.5
Kingston	-0.1	9.4	-2.5	2.5	3.6	-6.1	-4.3	2.3	1.5	-1.1	-1.5	-3.6	-3.6	-2.1	-2.4
London	2.8	2.4	1.8	17.1	1.1	-2.9	7.1	3.1	1.0	-1.2	-6.3	6.3	5.1	1.0	-0.5
Ottawa	0.4	1.0	4.5	3.8	4.8	-11.2	10.7	2.0	1.9	6.1	-1.5	-4.9	-11.0	-2.9	-5.8
Owen Sound	-0.7	9.3	2.4	-3.6	0.2	-7.1	9.0	8.0	-2.0	-4.1	-1.8	-3.8	-12.4	-9.7	-6.9
Peterborough	0.6	7.3	-1.4	2.8	2.9	-4.1	-0.3	2.8	-1.1	-1.3	-8.8	17.0	0.1	14.7	-0.9
Windsor	1.1	4.1	4.5	10.9	4.6	-10.6	0.3	1.6	2.9	5.3	-7.3	-21.1	3.2	-4.0	-4.3
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	0.3	1.1	2.6	1.0	0.2	0.1	2.8	-5.8	0.2	1.8	5.1	-11.7	-8.6	2.7	-1.1
Dryden	-1.1	2.6	-5.3	-0.4	2.0	-3.9	-1.5	3.7	1.3	2.5	-5.9	2.7	-4.7	-1.1	-4.1
Fort Frances	-8.0	-8.6	-9.2	-4.2	-22.6	1.9	0.6	16.1	10.5	-4.2	-25.0	3.7	-25.3	12.9	-18.6
Geraldton	0.0	0.0	10.3	-0.1	2.0	-2.1	7.4	3.4	1.1	-0.2	-8.3	2.2	-12.0	0.2	-7.6
Ignace	1.0	4.9	0.1	-8.9	-0.5	-4.7	20.2	20.9	3.0	-2.1	-1.8	-4.8	-7.8	0.4	-3.8
Kenora	-2.0	-1.3	-1.1	11.5	4.1	-4.3	-6.6	1.9	1.5	-1.5	-12.4	-11.3	-4.9	-5.3	-8.7
Marathon	2.9	4.9	3.4	-1.5	1.5	12.4	16.0	0.8	1.3	-13.8	24.1	3.4	-19.7	6.9	1.8
Rainy River	-0.7	0.1	6.9	10.1	-1.9	-15.0	3.7	5.1	-7.5	1.1	-1.1	1.6	9.7	7.7	4.0
Red Lake	-1.5	-1.9	5.2	-6.1	-1.1	-9.5	-0.8	1.9	1.6	0.9	2.8	0.0	-6.5	-0.5	-1.3
Stouffville	-0.4	0.0	1.8	-2.6	-3.0	-11.2	0.6	3.7	2.2	4.5	-7.2	8.9	9.3	0.4	1.0
Thunder Bay	1.6	0.4	3.2	0.1	5.9	-2.9	1.3	-3.1	2.8	-6.2	-0.4	0.0	18.3	1.5	5.7
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	0.0	10.0	-3.9	-14.3	2.6	-20.0	19.7	-22.9	0.0	-6.4	3.6	4.0	24.2	8.8	11.1
Chapleau	0.6	-4.1	7.4	-6.2	2.0	9.6	4.1	9.7	3.9	-3.5	-2.4	0.0	-9.2	15.0	-2.5
Cochrane	1.9	3.2	-0.5	1.8	6.7	4.9	-1.1	1.9	0.3	-1.7	11.3	-2.6	-4.8	-5.5	2.1
Elliot Lake	-1.4	4.2	1.5	-5.9	-1.4	1.5	-4.2	1.4	-3.5	4.2	-4.4	-7.9	-6.1	2.7	-4.4
Espanola	0.8	3.8	2.5	-2.1	-3.3	0.1	4.5	0.0	1.2	-1.4	-1.7	-7.2	7.0	1.3	1.3
Hearst	1.9	4.7	3.4	1.1	1.7	8.5	-3.3	9.8	3.1	0.9	-8.7	0.0	7.3	3.0	-1.0
Iroquois Falls	-0.7	0.6	0.7	-1.9	-1.2	-9.2	6.5	0.6	-4.5	1.8	-13.0	0.0	11.5	6.6	-1.2
Kapuskasing	3.0	4.5	2.7	-3.5	-2.2	-0.8	15.5	3.0	0.0	-6.8	-0.6	8.5	20.2	7.2	7.6
Kirkland Lake	1.5	1.3	2.1	4.4	0.7	-4.3	0.6	10.1	2.2	-3.8	-7.6	-22.1	19.7	6.8	2.0
Manitowlin Island	1.7	3.8	7.5	-4.9	2.8	13.0	11.2	18.4	0.8	-2.4	-5.3	-1.8	-10.8	-2.1	-6.8
Moosonee	-0.1	-0.4	2.2	8.5	2.2	-9.3	-17.5	10.0	0.3	-0.7	2.2	-8.1	-3.2	27.0	2.5
New Liskears	0.2	1.4	1.7	2.5	-1.1	4.7	-5.2	-2.4	0.8	1.7	-2.9	-12.5	1.0	6.6	-1.1
North Bay	-0.9	-0.6	0.4	0.3	1.1	-0.5	-5.5	-4.2	6.4	-3.3	-13.0	44.8	-0.1	19.4	-0.9
Sault Ste. Marie	-2.1	-0.4	-1.2	-3.3	2.9	-3.8	-3.8	1.7	0.0	-8.4	-0.9	-4.5	-4.5	-9.0	-2.6
Sturgeon Falls	2.6	7.5	1.5	1.0	0.0	1.6	15.9	-9.4	10.3	-3.0	-7.9	-3.5	9.5	10.6	0.7
Sudbury	1.7	-0.5	-5.8	11.6	-2.5	-11.3	23.3	11.9	0.2	1.4	-5.9	-2.4	5.2	1.5	1.2
Timmins	-0.7	3.9	1.0	-7.9	-3.8	4.7	-3.3	-1.2	-2.2	0.9	-1.0	-1.0	1.4	1.9	0.2
Wawa	0.7	5.0	-1.8	17.0	-1.6	4.1	0.2	-3.7	-1.0	-4.1	-15.1	-9.1	11.0	-8.7	-5.5

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

CA24N

cc

- 756

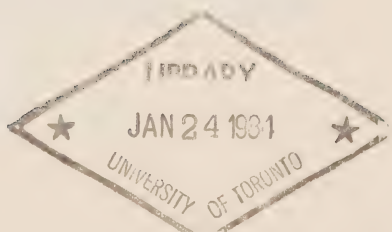
Report #38



Ontario

Ministry of
Consumer and
Commercial
Relations

Food Price Monitoring Program



December 1983

FOOD PRICE MONITORING PROGRAM

REPORT #38

DECEMBER 1983

Prepared by:

Research Section
Policy & Planning Branch
Ontario Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

December 1983

ISSN 0228 - 0965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TORONTO FOOD PRICES	1
PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND 36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	4
ONTARIO COMMUNITIES	6
APPENDICES	12

INDEX TO TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category in Toronto:	
Sept. 2, 1982 to Sept. 1, 1983	
Dec. 2, 1982 to Dec. 1, 1983	
Sept. 1, 1983 to Oct. 6, 1983	
Oct. 6, 1983 to Nov. 3, 1983	
Nov. 3, 1983 to Dec. 1, 1983.....	3
2. Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario:	
June 2, 1983, September 1, 1983 and December 1, 1983.....	5
3. Percentage Change in Prices from Previous Quarters for All Centres:	
March 3, 1983 to June 2, 1983	
June 2, 1983 to September 1, 1983	
Sept. 1, 1983 to Dec. 1, 1983	7
3a. Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres:	
Sept. 1, 1983 to Dec. 1, 1983	8
4. Christmas Dinner	
Year to year comparison	10

TORONTO FOOD PRICES

The total price of the 72 food items monitored in Toronto decreased by 0.6 per cent during the quarter September 1, 1983 to December 1, 1983 and increased by 3.7 per cent from a year earlier.

Monthly comparisons show that the total price of the 72 food items increased by 0.6 per cent between September 1 and October 6, 1983. Total prices declined by 1.2 per cent between October 6 and November 3, 1983 and rose by 0.1 per cent between November 3 and December 1, 1983.

The moderate decline in total prices over the quarter reflected price decreases in the following categories: cereals and bread (4.3 per cent); beverages (1.9 per cent); canned juices (6.9 per cent); fresh fruits and vegetables (6.9 per cent); beef (6.3 per cent) lamb (1.5 per cent) and pork (4.5 per cent). These decreases had an offsetting effect on increases in other categories.

The 'dairy and eggs' category increased by 2.9 per cent due to increases in the price of milk, eggs, cheese and milk powder. Prices for dairy products increased mainly in response to the August adjustment in the price of industrial milk as well as higher processing and distribution costs.

Retail egg price increases reflect the September 12, October 31 and November 21 increases in the price of Grade "A" large eggs at the producer level.

The 3.5 per cent increase in the price of canned fruits and the 4.3 per cent increase for canned vegetables were attributable to increased processing, distribution and retailing costs as well as lifting of September specials on some items.

The 9.8 per cent increase in the dry groceries category was largely due to lifting of September specials on rice and higher regular prices for pasta, salt and beans.

The 'oils and fats' category registered an increase of 5.3 per cent as the retail price of items in this category moved upwards in response to higher production costs.

The lifting of September specials was largely responsible for increases in the 'Jams and Syrups' and 'other groceries' categories.

'Poultry' increased by 5.4 per cent due to the lifting of September specials on turkey. At the time of monitoring there were, as yet, no promotions for the holiday period.

Price changes are available by category in Table 1.

Table 1:- Price Movements of 72 Food Items, by Category, in Toronto

Category	Number of Food Items	Year to Year Comparison			Month to Month Comparison			Quarterly Comparison
		Sept. 2/82 to Sept. 1/83 % Change	Dec. 2/82 to Dec. 1/83 % Change	Sept. 1/83 to Oct. 6/83 % Change	Oct. 6/83 to Nov. 3/83 % Change	Nov. 3/83 to Dec. 1/83 % Change	Sept. 1/83 to Dec. 1/83 % Change	
Dairy and Eggs	5	9.5	7.1	0.1	2.0	0.8	2.9	
Cereals and Bread	7	4.3	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 0.1	- 3.3	- 4.3	
Beverages	5	4.0	3.8	- 1.3	2.9	- 3.4	- 1.9	
Canned Fruits and Vegetables								
Canned Fruits	2	4.5	7.7	- 1.9	6.3	- 0.7	3.5	
Canned Vegetables	4	3.8	1.1	5.8	1.0	- 2.4	4.3	
Canned Juices	4	7.3	- 0.6	- 2.7	- 1.4	- 3.0	- 6.9	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	10	30.0	11.5	2.4	- 4.7	- 4.6	- 6.9	
Dry Groceries	7	- 5.2	7.3	10.4	- 0.8	0.3	9.8	
Oils and Fats	4	5.1	7.2	- 0.7	- 1.5	7.6	5.3	
Jams and Syrups	3	5.3	4.8	- 6.1	5.6	2.5	1.5	
Other Groceries	6	9.0	1.8	- 0.5	- 1.3	3.5	1.7	
Meats								
Beef	6	2.5	3.2	1.9	- 9.1	1.2	- 6.3	
Lamb (frozen)	1	3.1	1.1	- 4.8	5.1	- 1.5	- 1.5	
Pork	5	- 7.6	- 8.3	2.6	- 4.8	- 2.2	- 4.5	
Poultry	3	3.0	17.9	- 4.4	- 5.6	16.9	5.4	
Total	72	4.6	3.7	0.6	- 1.2	0.1	- 0.6	

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

PRICE COMPARISON BETWEEN TORONTO AND
36 ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Southern Ontario

Food prices recorded on December 1, 1983 were lower than Toronto in five southern Ontario communities. The price spread was unchanged in one community and narrowed in five others. The spread widened in one other community but this reflected price improvement in this community in relation to Toronto.

Northwestern Ontario

The price differential between Toronto and six Northwestern Ontario communities has narrowed since the last quarter, often reflecting price decreases in these communities. The spread widened in five other communities, sometimes reflecting the fact that the total price improved in relation to Toronto.

Northeastern Ontario

Food prices were lower than Toronto in three Northeastern Ontario communities. The price spread was stable in one community and narrowed in six others since last quarter. The spread widened in eleven other communities sometimes reflecting price improvements in relation to Toronto.

A comparison of prices in Toronto and all other communities can be found in Table 2.

Table 2:- Comparison of Total Prices for 72 Food Items Between Toronto and 36 Other Communities in Ontario

Community	June 2/83 % Difference from Toronto	Sept. 1/83 % Difference from Toronto	Dec. 1/83 % Difference from Toronto
Toronto	-	-	-
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-2.0	-0.6	0.1
Kingston	-2.3	-2.8	0.0
London	-2.0	0.2	-1.3
Ottawa	-6.8	-7.0	-4.6
Owen Sound	-4.9	-6.1	-2.7
Peterborough	-2.5	-2.4	-0.7
Windsor	-2.6	-2.1	-0.6
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	2.5	2.3	3.0
Dryden	0.9	-1.4	0.6
Fort Frances	4.3	-4.6	-7.5
Geraldton	2.5	1.9	1.5
Ignace	1.6	2.1	0.6
Kenora	1.2	-1.4	-1.5
Marathon	3.4	5.9	5.3
Rainy River	5.5	4.2	3.2
Red Lake	4.7	2.6	4.7
Sioux Lookout	5.7	4.7	5.7
Thunder Bay	-3.4	-2.4	-2.0*
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	-0.3	-0.8	3.0
Chapleau	2.9	2.9	8.2**
Cochrane	0.4	1.8	0.6
Elliot Lake	1.7	-0.2	1.3
Espanola	-1.2	-1.0*	-4.1*
Hearst	1.4	2.8	2.8
Iroquois Falls	-0.5	-1.7	-2.1
Kapuskasing	-0.3	2.1	2.6
Kirkland Lake	-2.2	-1.3	-0.2
Manitoulin Island	5.6	6.8	6.2
Moosonee	9.9	9.3	11.4
New Liskeard	0.5	0.2	1.8
North Bay	-1.2	-2.6	0.6
Sault Ste. Marie	1.2	-1.5	0.0
Sturgeon Falls	-0.9	1.1	3.7
Sudbury	-8.9	-7.7	-5.8
Timmins	1.0	-0.3	1.4
Wawa	0.5	0.7	1.1

Source: Ontario Food Price Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

*Price changes are based on a 2-store average due to the recent closure of a third store originally included in the survey.

**Price changes relate to one store only due to the recent closure of a second store originally monitored.

ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICES FROM PREVIOUS QUARTERS FOR ALL CENTRES

Between September 1, 1983 and December 1, 1983 prices decreased in 16 of the 37 Ontario communities. Prices increased in 21 other communities. Decreases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Kapuskasing to 3.7 per cent in Espanola. Increases range from 0.1 per cent in Atikokan to 4.5 per cent in Chapleau.

In many communities lower prices of meat (especially beef, pork and lamb), fresh fruits and vegetables, cereals and bread, canned juices and some grocery items had a moderating effect on prices.

Percentage changes in prices for all centres are presented in Table 3.

The percentage changes by category for the period September 1, 1983 to December 1, 1983 are available for all centres in Table 3a.

Table 3:- Percentage Changes in Prices from Previous Months
for All Centres

Community	March 3/83 to June 2/83 % Difference	June 2/83 to Sept. 1/83 % Difference	Sept.1/83 to Dec. 1/83 % Difference
Toronto	2.5	0.5	-0.6
<u>S. ONTARIO</u>			
Hamilton	-0.5	2.0	0.2
Kingston	1.7	-0.1	2.3
London	1.6	2.8	-2.0
Ottawa	-0.5	0.4	1.9
Owen Sound	1.9	-0.7	3.0
Peterborough	0.4	0.6	1.2
Windsor	2.2	1.1	1.0
<u>N.W. ONTARIO</u>			
Atikokan	0.0	0.3	0.1
Dryden	2.5	-1.1	0.7
Fort Frances	3.4	-8.0	-3.5
Geraldton	1.9	0.0	-1.0
Ignace	2.8	1.0	-2.1
Kenora	2.9	-2.0	-0.7
Marathon	-0.4	2.9	-1.1
Rainy River	2.0	-0.7	-1.5
Red Lake	1.6	-1.5	1.5
Sioux Lookout	3.8	-0.4	0.4
Thunder Bay	1.2	1.6	-0.1*
<u>N.E. ONTARIO</u>			
Blind River	2.2	0.0	3.2
Chapleau	2.9	0.6	4.5**
Cochrane	1.4	1.9	-1.7
Elliot Lake	3.8	-1.4	1.0
Espanola	2.2	0.8*	-3.7*
Hearst	0.3	1.9	-0.6
Iroquois Falls	2.9	-0.7	-0.9
Kapuskasing	1.2	3.0	-0.1
Kirkland Lake	-1.4	1.5	0.6
Manitoulin Island	1.0	1.7	-1.2
Moosonee	-0.3	-0.1	1.3
New Liskeard	0.8	0.2	1.0
North Bay	1.5	-0.9	2.7
Sault Ste. Marie	-0.2	-2.1	0.9
Sturgeon Falls	3.3	2.6	2.0
Sudbury	2.1	1.7	1.4
Timmins	3.7	-0.7	1.2
Wawa	0.7	0.7	-0.2

Source: Ontario Food Monitoring Program, Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

*Based on a 2-store average due to the recent closure of a third store originally included in the survey.

**Based on prices in 1 store due to the recent closure of a second store originally monitored.

Table 3b: Price Movements of 72 Food Items by Category for All Centres, Sept. 1, 1983 to December 1, 1983 (Percentage Change)

Community	% Change	Dairy & Eggs	Cereals & Bread	Beverages	Canned Fruits, Vegetables & Juices	Fresh Fruit & Veg.	Dry Groceries	Oils & Fats	Jams & Syrupes	Other Groceries	Beef	Lamb	Pork	Poultry	Meat
Toronto	-0.6	2.9	-4.3	-1.9	-2.1	-6.9	9.8	5.3	1.5	1.6	-6.3	-1.5	-4.5	5.4	-3.6
S. ONTARIO															
Hamilton	0.2	3.7	-5.7	2.1	-2.3	2.3	13.4	10.0	4.3	0.1	-2.2	-10.4	-17.6	12.3	-6.7
Kingston	2.3	3.4	-1.4	1.0	3.4	7.1	12.7	12.1	3.9	3.9	-5.8	-3.3	-3.7	4.0	-3.5
London	-2.0	5.2	-10.7	-9.8	-3.3	-5.6	7.2	6.7	0.1	1.0	-4.7	-10.4	-0.6	5.1	-2.3
Ottawa	1.9	-3.4	1.2	3.5	-2.8	3.2	7.2	0.3	1.1	0.5	12.0	-5.2	3.9	12.1	7.5
Owen Sound	3.0	-1.6	-3.8	4.1	4.3	4.0	9.7	6.8	5.5	9.8	-2.3	-1.2	9.4	4.5	-2.7
Peterborough	1.2	2.6	-0.1	-0.8	-1.8	0.6	9.0	5.7	0.2	1.6	2.6	-1.4	-6.1	4.7	0.6
Windsor	1.0	1.1	-5.1	-5.1	2.6	5.5	14.4	0.7	4.7	2.8	-3.5	23.7	-4.0	0.8	-1.3
N.W. ONTARIO															
Atikokan	0.1	6.3	2.3	1.6	0.5	-9.2	-4.4	5.6	0.3	-0.2	-4.5	0.0	4.3	-0.5	-0.9
Dryden	0.7	3.0	4.9	0.8	1.4	5.2	-8.9	5.1	4.5	-0.3	-2.0	-3.2	-1.8	5.8	-0.9
Fort Frances	-3.5	4.5	2.0	-5.9	18.0	-11.0	-15.8	-23.2	-7.9	-13.8	-4.2	-4.2	10.9	8.9	2.3
Geraldton	-1.0	1.4	-8.7	-4.9	-1.6	-15.2	13.2	5.5	8.9	-13.0	-1.6	2.6	8.3	4.5	7.4
Ignace	-2.1	4.9	0.1	7.7	0.5	-18.2	-4.7	1.3	-4.3	-1.9	-12.3	-19.7	-1.0	6.5	-6.3
Kenora	-0.7	-1.2	3.3	0.0	-0.1	-8.8	3.2	1.8	3.5	-0.2	-0.1	-3.6	-3.5	-7.1	-2.7
Marathon	-1.1	0.6	-0.1	-4.0	-1.8	-17.5	-13.5	-1.0	0.6	13.3	-4.5	0.0	14.6	13.0	4.6
Rainy River	-1.5	1.2	0.2	1.2	3.1	3.4	-3.9	-8.4	17.4	-1.2	-5.0	0.0	-9.2	-3.8	-5.9
Red Lake	0.7	3.0	-0.7	2.9	0.9	-0.3	-6.6	11.3	1.9	-4.2	-0.5	9.6	9.4	3.1	-4.4
Sioux Lookout	0.4	0.1	-3.8	1.3	-0.5	-5.7	11.7	1.1	3.9	2.1	-2.0	-17.7	-1.3	-1.4	-1.6
*Thunder Bay	-0.1	-2.4	-2.9	-2.1	-1.2	-8.4	4.0	-1.1	-1.7	1.4	10.1	1.7	-5.0	9.9	4.9
N.E. ONTARIO															
Blind River	3.2	1.6	2.5	16.8	2.7	27.8	0.4	8.9	0.0	-6.9	-2.8	4.1	-13.8	15.5	-3.9
**Chapleau	4.5	-1.9	-6.2	21.3	2.2	-7.7	11.8	6.5	0.7	1.3	10.8	24.2	6.3	-10.1	7.5
Cochrane	-1.7	2.3	1.7	1.6	-0.6	-5.3	5.8	1.2	4.5	-7.1	-11.2	-3.3	-6.9	-5.1	-8.4
Elliot Lake	-1.0	2.1	-3.1	8.1	-1.1	-6.6	5.6	2.4	9.2	0.8	3.8	-13.3	-5.2	1.0	-1.3
*Espaula	-3.7	-6.7	-6.1	-1.1	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.6	2.8	-7.0	-7.4	-3.8	-14.3	6.2	-7.9
Hearst	-0.6	7.7	-2.6	6.3	-1.4	-13.4	7.1	4.0	0.3	-1.2	4.1	5.5	-20.9	0.2	-5.5
Iroquois Falls	-0.9	3.3	-2.4	-3.6	-3.9	-6.4	7.1	1.3	3.3	-1.0	9.1	-1.9	-12.4	-2.1	-1.4
Kapuskasing	-0.1	-1.7	-5.7	0.0	8.7	-13.6	4.0	2.7	6.2	1.7	-2.7	7.4	-3.0	0.5	0.4
Kirkland Lake	0.6	4.7	-6.2	3.6	0.4	-4.1	2.1	3.4	4.5	3.8	5.3	18.5	-14.4	6.4	-1.3
Manitowlin Island	-0.5	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.1	-5.8	4.9	-24.0	0.1	4.1	5.5	-0.0	-5.1	5.3	1.0
Moosonee	1.3	1.9	-3.9	0.0	0.4	-9.0	27.7	4.8	0.6	3.5	1.5	0.0	-4.1	-16.0	-3.2
New Liskeard	1.0	2.6	-4.0	10.7	-4.7	-1.0	10.8	3.8	6.7	1.4	2.5	0.0	-16.4	7.3	-3.6
North Bay	2.7	5.1	-1.9	6.0	0.9	-1.6	11.2	11.2	-5.2	4.4	3.9	-14.7	-4.8	9.6	-0.1
Sault Ste. Marie	0.9	1.7	-10.8	7.2	-5.6	-0.6	11.8	6.0	5.9	2.9	-6.2	0.0	5.7	-4.7	-1.6
Sturgeon Falls	2.0	-0.5	1.7	5.0	-0.9	5.7	-10.3	19.8	-3.1	0.3	4.2	12.0	-10.8	17.2	0.8
Sudbury	1.4	2.2	-2.7	-4.4	6.7	-5.5	9.0	5.5	0.5	11.3	-7.2	-5.0	2.5	15.4	-0.4
Timmins	1.2	0.8	-1.1	4.1	5.8	-12.4	8.3	9.8	9.0	-2.0	0.4	-2.4	-4.2	5.0	-0.8
Wawa	-0.2	-10.4	0.0	-3.3	-1.3	-15.4	20.7	19.4	4.2	3.7	4.7	6.5	-13.9	12.4	0.9

Note: Specials are included for all locations.

*Based on 2-store average due to recent closure of a third store originally included in survey

**Price changes relate to one store only due to recent closure of a second store originally

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The estimated cost of a Christmas dinner for four people is compared between December 1982 and December 1983 in Table 4. This includes a survey of baking needs and is based on a 3 store average.

In some of the major food chains many items in the "baking needs" portion can be purchased in bulk. Table 4, therefore, shows the annual percentage change in bulk prices as well as the reduction which the substitution of bulk prices generates.

TABLE 4: CHRISTMAS DINNER, YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON

	December							
	1982	1983			% Change			
<u>Dinner</u>								
Mushroom Soup	1.06	.99						
Garden Cocktail - 28 ozs	.95	.85						
Turkey Grade A Frozen - 12 lbs	15.08	14.68						
Raspberry Sauce - 14 oz	1.12	1.29						
Stuffing Mix - Turkey - 8 oz	1.29	1.32						
Bread Loaf	.56	.75						
Ham - 1 lb	.32	.59						
Green Beans, fresh 1 lb	.85	.99						
Broccoli - bunch	.95	1.19						
Christmas Plum Pudding - 15 oz	3.29	2.89						
Coffee - 1 lb bag	2.89	3.06						
1% Milk - Quart	.86	.88						
Wine - Ontario	4.85	5.95						
Dinner - Total	34.07	35.43			4.0			
					% Change		% Difference	
					1982-83		Bulk/Reg.	
					Reg. Prices		Bulk Subs	
<u>Baking Needs</u>								
	1982	1983	1982	1983				
Raisins - 15 oz	2.52	2.34	1.46	1.87				
Almonds Sliced - 100 gr.	1.51	1.75	.88	.88				
Walnuts Pieces - 100 gr.	1.19	1.26	.79	.77				
Butter - 1 lb	2.05	2.44	2.05	2.44				
Dried Fruits:								
Mixed Peel Dices - 8 oz	1.49	1.54	.59	.64				
Cherried Red & Green - 8 oz	2.49	2.19	1.25	1.32				
Flour 2.5 kg.	2.39	2.36	1.73	1.66				
Sugar granulated - 2 kg.	1.66	1.99	1.66	1.24				
Spices:								
Ginger ground 32 gr.	1.11	1.17	.22	.22				
All spice ground 32 gr.	1.41	1.41	.34	.34				
Cinnamon ground 32 gr.	1.14	1.27	.19	.19				
Rum - Ontario 13 oz	6.35	7.60	6.35	7.60				
Sugar	1.07	1.30	1.07	1.30				
Baking Total	26.38	28.62	18.58	20.47	8.49	10.2	-28.5	
Total Dinner + Baking	60.45	64.05	52.65	55.90	6.00	6.2	-12.7	

Note: Specials are included in 3 store average

*Prices of bulk items are substituted where possible

FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR FOOD PRICES IN 1984

According to Agriculture Canada's forecast, retail food prices are expected to rise six to eight per cent in 1984.

These assumptions are based on information available to November 4, 1983 and reflect expectations of higher prices for oil seeds and feed grains, lower red meat supplies, a further rise in marketing costs and increased consumer demand.

The Retail Council of Canada predicts that the rate for 1984 will be only "a modest increase" over the 3% rate estimated for 1983.

APPENDICES

Scope of Monitoring

Methodology

SCOPE OF MONITORING

This report presents the results of food price monitoring in Toronto and 36 Ontario communities. Previously, Toronto and 34 communities were monitored. In August 1981 Owen Sound and Kingston were added to cover regions which were not included in previous monitoring. This report is prepared quarterly.

Additional copies of earlier reports can be obtained by contacting the Research Section of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 9th Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2H6.

A list of 72 mass-purchased food products, representing over 30 food companies, was compiled as the basis for food price monitoring at the retail level throughout the province. The food groupings include many staples and closely relate to the normal purchase selections of consumers in the supermarket. During the monitoring, both the regular and special prices of the 72 items were recorded.

Food prices were checked in stores chosen from a selection of supermarkets that collectively represent over 70 per cent of the estimated market in the eleven major centres of Ontario. These market centres include Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

These 11 cities represent more than 61 per cent of the province's population. A monitored supermarket sample of three major chains was undertaken in each of the 11 centres. Thus, the resulting price trends in Ontario are broadly based. In addition, price monitoring in 26 northeastern and northwestern Ontario communities facilitated province-wide price comparisons.

Methodology

Prices of the 72 food items were collected in 37 centres (the 11 major markets and 26 other communities) on the same day quarterly. The average prices for each centre were calculated from the prices monitored in three stores. Since consumers had the opportunity to take advantage of special prices, specials were included in the monitoring. Any specials included in historical comparisons of food prices are indicated.

Since problems of product availability were anticipated in some of the more remote and smaller communities, staples and items sold in large volume were selected for monitoring. Appropriate adjustments had to be made for size or brand substitutions, using a price-per-unit comparison and prices for comparable brands of the same size.

The monitored items were divided into 10 food categories so that prices could be compared without revealing individual brand names. The 10 categories are:

Dairy and Eggs	Dry Groceries
Cereals and Bread	Oils and Fats
Beverages	Jams and Syrups
Canned Fruits and Vegetables	Other Groceries
(including canned juices)	Meats (including
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables	beef, frozen lamb,
	pork and poultry)

The percentage price changes were calculated for individual items on an historical and geographical basis. A comparison of prices between Toronto and other centres is presented in Table 2. Percentage changes in prices from previous months are shown in Table 3 for all the centres.

3 1761 11467938 4

